

Lottery bonanza

Win £5,000 of tickets for the £23 million roll-over
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Pain in the tusk

Mercy mission to relieve a big ache
PAGE 7

Taking the strain

Valerie Grove meets an expert on stress
PAGE 12

The festive runaways

Why so many children leave home and family
PAGE 4

Celluloid saint

Madonna should make a musical of herself
PAGE 27

Two men pulled from under ice lake after trying to save girl, aged 11, who went after dog

Fight to save victims from frozen lake

By PAUL WILKINSON

Snow forecast to spread

More blizzards are forecast for the Shetland Islands today and sleet and snow showers are likely to spread south. South-West England is expected to be the first to be affected while the rest of the country has a cold but sunny start to the day.

By evening fairly heavy falls are expected to reach Southern England and South Wales. Most of Scotland should be fine but cold and other areas are predicted to remain dry and sunny, but freezing. The North East will have snow showers and Northern Ireland will be cold and dry. Forecast, page 18

DOCTORS were last night fighting to revive an 11-year-old girl and a man who tried to rescue her when she fell into a freezing lake. A fireman who had also gone to her aid was declared dead after a six-hour battle to save him. All three had been trapped under the ice for more than two hours.

Onlookers feared that they were all dead when they were pulled from the water in a park at Kinsley in West Yorkshire, but emergency medical staff believed that their bodies had been "shut down" by the sub-zero temperatures.

Extra staff were called to Pontefract General Infirmary to help the five-strong medical teams working to revive Tracey Patterson and her two rescuers. Although they were showing no signs of recovery after several hours, doctors refused to give up hope until their temperatures had been raised to normal.

The men had gone into the lake after Tracey followed her dog on to the ice and fell through at lunchtime yesterday. The first, aged about 50, also fell into the 6 ft deep, freezing water. Michael Mac, an off-duty fireman who was walking in the park with his wife and family, then tried to save the pair by spreading a tarpaulin across the ice, but he, too, fell through. He was declared dead at 9 pm.

A team of six firefighters waded neck deep into the water, smashing the ice before them, in a desperate attempt to find the three, but without success. One refused to come

out and stayed chest deep in the lake for 20 minutes until a senior officer gave him a direct order to return to the bank. All six later received treatment for hypothermia.

A police diving team had by then taken over what was assumed to be a search for bodies. Using an underwater camera, they found the three about 20 yards from the water's edge more than two hours after the girl slipped through the ice. The victims were swaddled in foil sheets and blankets and driven the five miles to Pontefract. The dog's body was also recovered.

Chief Inspector Mike Devlin, who led the rescue efforts,

said the alarm had been raised at about 12.20 pm by another girl and a woman who had been with Tracey. Ten minutes later, all three victims had disappeared. He said: "The fireman's wife saw everything. Both men have been very, very brave."

The other firemen were given warm baths at a nursing home overlooking the lake. Their station officer, Ian Clegg, said: "They were suffering from extreme cold, but were dedicated and would not accept defeat."

The accident came the day after postman Robert Giles died trying to rescue his dog, which had also run on to a frozen lake and fallen through. Even so, children were again playing on the thin ice at Anson Lake in Andover yesterday. Police Inspector Mandy Hills said: "The council have put up signs today, but children are still skating on the ice. You would think they would have learned that it was dangerous."

Mr Giles was one of at least nine people to die as a result of the cold weather. They include a publican whose body was found 24 hours after he went for a walk on Christmas Day, a 16-year-old boy who tried to walk three miles home in freezing temperatures and a homeless man found in an alleyway in Edinburgh. All three died of hypothermia. Other victims were killed in road crashes.

Army helps, page 3
Philip Howard, page 14



Divers bringing one of the two men to the surface at Hemsworth. Doctors then spent hours trying to revive them and the girl they had tried to save

Techniques that can revive frozen victims

By DR THOMAS STUTTAFOORD AND RICHARD DUCE

HUMAN resilience in intense cold has led to some miraculous escapes — and none more so than that of two-year-old Karlee Kosolofski, who was virtually frozen solid when she was accidentally shut out of her home in Canada wearing only a coat and nightdress.

She was outside in temperatures of -22C (-8F) for six hours before her parents found her. Her heart had stopped and her body temperature had fallen from her normal 36C to 14C (58F), but doctors managed to revive her by putting

her on a heart bypass machine for five hours while slowly warming her body.

Similar techniques were used in Pontefract yesterday, where medical teams tried five different methods to revive the water park victims.

Mike Playforth, the consultant in charge of accidents and emergencies, said: "These include cardiac massage and filtering warm fluids into the stomach, bowels and bladder, to gently raise the body temperatures to 32C." The three were attached to ventilators and their hearts massaged for ten minutes at a time. Had the accident happened



Karlee Kosolofski

in normal water temperature there would have been no rapid cooling to protect the brain, but they were in suspended animation, from

which people had been known to recover, he said.

While falling into ice-cold water frequently causes sudden death from shock, a person who has been submerged in icy water can occasionally be resuscitated, even though no pulse is evident. This is because the very low temperatures inhibit the body's metabolism and reduce its need for oxygen. Children are particularly likely to surprise their rescuers with their ability to survive.

On the other hand, people rescued from water while still conscious should not be considered out of danger.

Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and cardiac massage are essential first-aid measures, but nothing must be allowed to delay the patient's arrival in hospital. Warming is essential as the body is incapable of regaining its normal temperature after it has fallen too low. Once in hospital, he can be attached to a ventilator and he is wired up to allow immediate defibrillation should the heart rhythm become disturbed — a common complication with severe hypothermia. The chemical balance of the blood will need constant checking for a long while after the patient has started to recover.

Ulster fears IRA revival

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, said the IRA's continuing campaign of murder could be a prelude to full-scale war. Joe Hendron, MP for West Belfast, echoed his fears but said the latest killing did not amount to a breach of the ceasefire.

The IRA's drive against suspected drug dealers has claimed six lives in eight months: the latest victim, Martin McCrory, who was shot dead at home, was known to the police as a petty criminal. Page 2

Test umpires are wired for stress

The umpires in the fourth Test in South Africa have been wired up for medical experts to measure their stress levels. The results will not be revealed, but they probably soared just before tea when Cyril Mitchell controversially gave Atherton out. Page 36

MPs risk landing in hot water

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

UNACCEPTABLE levels of the bacteria that cause legionnaires' disease have been found at the House of Commons.

Although engineers have tried to cleanse the hot water system, tests this week have shown traces of the bacteria remaining near the quarters of the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd.

Further tests are being carried out, but the results might not be known until after January 9 — the day MPs, journalists and thousands of support staff who work in the Palace of Westminster return to work.

Legionnaires' disease is caught by inhaling droplets of infected water. It attacks the lining of the lungs, causing breathing difficulties and pneumonia.

Yesterday Commons staff

were told not to use hot taps while engineers pumped boiling water through pipes for a second time to "pasteurise" the system.

All showers in the north end of the Palace, including the Speaker's Residence, have been closed until the hot water system gets the all-clear.

Dr Chris Pond, head of the Commons information office, said routine tests on the system last month showed bacteria levels of 4,400 units in some pipes. The recommended safe maximum is 100 units. The bacteria are believed to have been introduced when new pipes were installed in October.

Large areas of the Palace of Westminster were left freezing when engineers failed to put the heating back on after electricity was switched off to save energy.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



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Jonathan Meades makes his selection

Best Tassas
A four-page guide

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World population up by 100 million

By IAN BRODIE

WORLD population grew this year by 100 million people to 5.75 billion, the largest increase ever, according to figures released by a population research group yesterday.

Ninety per cent of the growth was in poor countries "torn by civil strife and social unrest where all too many people live in brutal poverty".

Werner Fornos, director of the Population Institute in Washington, said: "The previous biggest increase, 95 million, occurred last year. Mr Fornos predicted that annual expansion would continue at 100 million for the next five years, but effective birth control policies could stabilise the global population at about eight billion by 2015. Without active promotion of family planning, there could be an increase to as many as 14 billion people by 2050, he said.

He noted that about three billion young people will be entering their peak reproductive years in the coming generation and whether they limited their families would "make the difference between our setting course for an environmental Armageddon in the 21st century or a better quality of life".

To illustrate the difference between wealthy and poor countries, Mr Fornos compared Britain and Bangladesh. At present growth rates, Bangladesh will double its population of 125 million in less than 30 years while Britain, with 58.6 million, will take 385 years. The report says that 80 countries — 43 in Africa — are likely to double their population within 30 years, although some others, headed by China, have succeeded in reducing their birth rates.

Rent-a-ring scheme to ease heartache of splitting up

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

COUPLES in America are being offered engagement and wedding rings for hire, in case their relationships do not last. Rings are paid for on a weekly basis for a year, after which, if still wanted, they become the property of the wearers.

The ring rental scheme was started by Rent-A-Center, a

Kansas-based hire purchase company. Its jewellery buyer, Bob Marshall, yesterday reported steady business over Christmas, traditionally a busy time for wedding proposals. "Things have been very, very favourable," he said.

The rate of return for engagement rings is currently 50 per cent, but Mr Marshall said that broken love affairs were not the sole reason for

purchase deals being cancelled. Shortage of money or a desire to change to a different ring design were also common.

In cases of heartache, Rent-A-Center staff are trained to demonstrate sensitivity. "We have a good rapport with our customers," Mr Marshall said. Tearful scenes at the counter were not unknown, he said, but "we do not pry. We

simply ask if they were happy with the quality, and try to be understanding. Customers know they can come back for any reason." Rent-A-Center has more than 1,000 shops across America.

Rent-A-Center engagement rings range from \$12.99 to \$24.99 a week. The quality of the diamonds varies from one-sixteenth of a carat to one-half, and rings now account for a

fifth of Rent-A-Center's total business. When newlyweds complete their payments, the company sends a decorated message congratulating them on surviving the year.

When a ring is returned after the collapse of an engagement or a marriage, Rent-A-Center likes to send it back to the manufacturer rather than risk passing the bad luck on to another couple.

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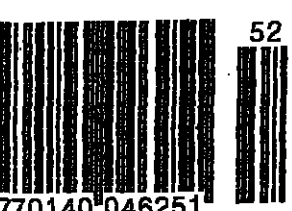
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Mawhinney puts Tories on alert for election

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRIAN MAWHINNEY put the Conservatives on "election alert" yesterday as he urged them to stop fighting each other and "start thinking votes". The comments of the party chairman came as speculation mounted over whether the Prime Minister would be forced to call an early election next year.

The Tory majority is expected to be cut from five to three in 1996, following two by-elections. Two more by-election losses would turn the Government into a minority administration. In his New Year message to constituency chairmen, Dr

Mawhinney warned that it would be a critical year and the party should devote itself to winning round the public before the election.

He said: "There can be no time and no tolerance for internal argument or selfish grandstanding. Victory must be our only concern. So I am asking you to put your association on election alert now. Start thinking votes."

Dr Mawhinney's rallying call was echoed by Michael Heseltine, who said in an ITN interview: "We are always prepared to fight if we have to, but the strategy is not to go for a short-term solution." In a remark which was immediately seized on by the Labour Party, Mr Heseltine

added: "The Conservative Party will increasingly become a fighting machine as opposed to a Government administering the country."

The Deputy Prime Minister denied suggestions that John Major wanted to call an early election and said the Tories would go into 1997 to ensure the people felt the benefits of the economic recovery.

Dr Mawhinney also said that he expected the Parliament to run its full course, but admitted the possibility of a 1996 poll. "This Parliament has 16 or 17 months to run, so I work on the basis that we will go through that period of time. But we will be ready to go whenever the Prime Minister calls," he told ITN. Dr Mawhinney

also dampened down speculation about a summer Budget, followed by an autumn election, although he did not rule one out.

In his letter to constituency chairmen, Dr Mawhinney turned his attack on Labour and particularly Tony Blair. Under Labour, taxes, inflation and interest rates would rise, as in the past, he said. "As with Communists back in prominence in Russia, Britain could never feel safe with a former CND member in 10 Downing Street."

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, exploited Mr Heseltine's comments, claiming that he had betrayed the Tories' desperation. "Mr Heseltine has put his hands up and

admitted that the Government is on its last legs," said Mr Prescott. "The Tories have given up governing the country in the interests of the people. From now on, they will throw everything into electioneering."

Paddy Ashdown, Liberal Democrat leader, issued his own New Year message last night, accusing both parties of ducking the issues and warning Labour that it faced being a "one-Parliament flop." He attacked Labour for shying away from presenting hard facts to the electorate, turning their backs on a radical agenda and refusing to come up with clear, costed policies.

Denis MacShane, page 14

MPs condemn father's murder

IRA killings 'could herald a return to full-scale war'

By EDWARD GORMAN AND JOHN HICKS

THE IRA's campaign of murder and intimidation of criminals could herald a return to full-scale war unless the dripping tap of violence is turned off, Ulster politicians said yesterday.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, said that the IRA might use the latest series of killings in Belfast as a prelude to a gradual escalation of violence. He was speaking after the murder of a Roman Catholic father of two by the IRA in Belfast on Wednesday night.

Mr Trimble said that the security forces could not continue to turn a blind eye to IRA activities. "We know there has never been a genuine peace, just a cessation of certain types of terrorist activity. The extent of the cessation is now narrowing. It is a rather worrying

indication that the terrorist organisation may be preparing the ground for a more extensive use of violence."

The latest victim of the IRA's campaign against suspected drug dealers — which has claimed six lives in eight months — was Martin McCrory, 30, who was known to police as a petty criminal. He was shot as he watched television at his home in the nationalist Turf Lodge estate in West Belfast. His three-year-old son, who was sitting with him on the sofa, suffered slight hand injuries from flying glass. Mr McCrory's girlfriend and another son, aged 8, were unhurt.

Mr Trimble's comments on the state of killings were echoed by Joe Hendron, the SDLP MP for West Belfast. He said he did not believe the

murder of Mr McCrory amounted to a breach of the ceasefire, but added: "If these killings keep on, they will put the whole peace process in jeopardy."

"The IRA has declared war on a section of the nationalist community. They have already beaten up and smashed the bones of 200 young people and murdered others. If Sinn Féin want to be treated as democrats then they must condemn the murders, call off the hounds and stop the killings at once."

Mary Muldoon, an SDLP councillor in West Belfast, said Sinn Féin was coming under increasing pressure from hardliners in the IRA. "The IRA realise they have nowhere to go. They are now flexing their muscles and reminding everyone they still exist. By giving their tacit support for the murders, Sinn Féin are trying to ride two horses at the same time."

Michael Mates, the former Northern Ireland Minister, said he believed the killing was the work of a splinter group of the IRA which wanted to sabotage the ceasefire. "There's been a branch of the IRA that didn't want the ceasefire, to whom killing and extortion and murder and terrorism has become a way of life, and who in spasmodic bursts are continuing their ways," he said on BBC Radio.

Direct Action Against Drugs, regarded as a cover name for the IRA, admitted killing Mr McCrory, as it has done for four previous killings. In a coded message to a radio station, a caller said anyone else involved in the drug trade would get the same treatment. He signed off: "We'll get them all."



Martin McCrory was killed by the IRA as he sat watching television with his two young sons



At a news conference yesterday, Vikky Bannon urges the driver to come forward

Daughter makes tearful plea to her father's killer

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE daughter of a man stabbed more than 20 times in a Christmas morning street murder made an emotional appeal yesterday to her father's killer. "Tell me why," Vikky Bannon said she could see no reason for her father John Trinder's killing.

She fought back tears as she told reporters: "They've taken my Christmas, my dad's life and mine and my family's with it."

Mr Trinder, 55, a distant cousin of Tommy Trinder, the comedian, died within yards of his house in south-east London after being attacked on the five-minute walk home from a Christmas Eve drink at his local pub. A smartly dressed white man in his late 20s was seen running off and getting into a waiting Ford Fiesta after the murder at 12.30am in Peckham.

Police believe the driver may not have been aware of what happened because the car was parked around the corner. Detective Superintendent Gordon King, leading the inquiry said: "I'd like that driver to come forward because he may not know that his passenger stabbed Mr Trinder over 20 times in a quite vicious, senseless and, as far as I can see at the moment, motiveless attack."

Mrs Bannon, 34, an office clerk from nearby New Cross, appealed to the driver, saying:



John Trinder: attacked just yards from home

"If he didn't know and now he does and he's frightened for some reason, just come and talk to somebody."

Mr Trinder, a divorced, unemployed scaffolder, lived alone. "He lived for being our dad, mine and my brothers. That's what he had in life," said Mrs Bannon, whose husband Pat sat beside her at a police news conference in Peckham.

She said she could think of no incident that could have led to his murder. He had gone to the Rye Hotel that evening for "an amicable drink" and there had been no cross words. "I can't see any reason. He left the pub on good terms with everybody. He even borrowed some bread so he could go home and have some supper. "He wasn't looking for trouble. You don't try to defend yourself with a loaf of bread."

Mr King said police did not believe the motive for the attack was robbery because Mr Trinder still had nearly £80 on him. It was not clear whether the driver of the car was a man or woman.

Flood of calls over Celine

By A STAFF REPORTER

POLICE searching for the missing French student Celine Figard have received more than 1,200 calls for the public after an emotional appeal for help by her father.

M. Bernard Figard was back at home in France yesterday, after travelling to England to make his appeal, but refused to give up hope for his daughter who has not been seen since Tuesday last week. M. Figard, a farmer, said: "If the driver of the lorry who offered her a lift would only come forward then it is possible she may be found."

She is my daughter and I can never give up hope."

Celine, 19, was last seen by a French driver as she accepted a lift from the driver of a white Mercedes lorry at Chieveley service station near Newbury, Berkshire. She was on her way to the New Forest to spend Christmas with a relative after hitch-hiking over from France.

Detective Superintendent Dee Thomas said: "We had a massive public response to the appeal for information. The information is all being processed. Some of it was very useful. We have lots of leads but, as yet, no breakthroughs."

Every port is in possession of a photograph of Celine and a photo of the lorry driver. It is possible that the driver is foreign and was on his way to the continent. No one actually heard him speak and at this stage nothing is being ruled out. We all have to be prepared for the worst."

Interpol yesterday wired a new likeness to Hampshire police of the Mercedes lorry driver seen to pick up Celine. It was compiled by French investigators, but differs from the British photo only by not featuring any stubble.

Last without trace, page 4

Lottery gives generously to mother tongue

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE National Lottery has made a generous contribution to the English language. The advent of the lottery has brought dictionary compilers a fund of new words and expressions for forthcoming editions.

Chambers might appear to have scooped the jackpot already by including a new definition of "scratchcard" in its Combined Dictionary/Thesaurus, but the editorial director, Robert Allen, said yesterday that he would be embarrassed to claim a big win over the other two principal dictionary publishers, Oxford and Collins.

"All new dictionaries have some interesting new words in them, Mr Allen said. "The effect of the National

Lottery has been to give new meanings to otherwise familiar words."

Chambers' definition of scratchcard is: "A form of lottery card with a thin opaque film, which is scratched to reveal the allocated numbers printed beneath." Future Chambers publications may include a new meaning for "instant", after the launch of National Lottery Instant, as well as an explanation of "Olot", a wider meaning for "rollover". It is even possible that room may be found for "lottaholic", which Chambers' 12 part-time monitors have noted entering the language.

Mr Allen said yesterday: "Rollover has formerly been a term familiar to accountants through rollover relief from taxation. Now it has a more popular meaning among a much

wider audience. Olot is one of a whole family of ugly acronyms that have sprung up to describe regulatory authorities."

Martin Mellor, who runs Chambers' reading programme trawling for new words, said scratchcard had qualified for inclusion because of the frequency with which it appeared in newspapers and other forms of media. "We try to reflect the true nature of language without being too politically correct about it. These days, dictionaries follow the lead of the general public. It is not our job to lay down laws. We record what is being said."

The Oxford English Dictionary will carry "scratchcard" in volume three of its Additions Series, out next year. Oxford has also drafted an entry for

Olot for possible inclusion in the volume after that.

Jennifer Miel, an assistant editor, said editors were considering "rollover" and "instant" in readiness for their next full dictionary, due in 1996. Sales of National Lottery tickets have exceeded £5 billion since being launched 13 months ago. Camelot said yesterday. Weekly jackpot ticket sales have reached £5.7 billion while sales of the nine Instant scratchcard games have totalled £1.3 billion.

More than 292 million people have won a total of £2.5 billion on the lottery, and £1.35 billion has been raised for the five good causes. The Treasury has taken £600 million in tax, and £250 million has been paid in commission to the 28,000 retailers who sell the tickets.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bargain hunters go on spending spree

The post-Christmas surge in spending continued yesterday, with some shopping centres welcoming more visitors than they had seen on the first day of winter sales (Robin Young writes). Credit card companies were struggling to keep up with the pace of spending.

At the MetroCentre in Gateshead, Europe's largest shopping complex with 340 outlets, 32,000 shoppers had entered the malls by 11am yesterday, a figure well up on the first day of the sales, when a total of 132,000 people visited the centre during the day. "We are still extremely busy," said the centre's marketing manager, Ron Woodman. "We expect to have another 100,000 people through today."

A spokeswoman for Barclaycard said it was still too early to give any figures for the amount of business done on credit cards during the sales. "We have had such a busy Christmas period that we are still processing those," she said. Hugh Clark of the British Retail Consortium said: "We expect record sales this year."

Vehicle tests to continue

Roadside emission tests on all vehicles are to continue after "unacceptable levels of pollution" were discovered in checks the Government said yesterday. Steven Norris, the Transport Minister, said that the offending vehicles included taxis, goods and public service vehicles. Checks took place on almost 48,500 vehicles throughout the country in the six-month period to the end of September. "The results show there is a clear need to maintain our efforts to drive home the message about safeguarding the environment from unnecessary pollution from vehicles," he said.

Illegal migrants jailed

Three young Gambian men were jailed for three months each yesterday by Horseferry Road magistrates' court in Westminster after admitting using false passports. One had arrived illegally at Holyhead in north Wales and then paid £50 for a British visitor's passport on which he stuck his own photograph. Two others were arrested at Victoria coach station with false passports after buying tickets to Amsterdam to escape the proposed crackdown on benefits for asylum seekers. The Home Secretary will consider deportation after the sentences have been served.

£5m road safety award

Gloucester has beaten 26 other towns and cities to win £5 million to implement road safety measures in a competition run by the Government. Bury and Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, made the shortlist. The competing towns had to submit initiatives to help to reduce their annual road casualty levels from 500 to 300 in around five years. Di Phillips, chairman of Gloucestershire County Council's road safety liaison group, said the money would be spent on several projects. "There won't just be road humps and white paint," she said.

A nose for weight loss

It may soon be possible to shed surplus pounds simply by breathing in, according to scientists at Liverpool University. Pharmaceutical companies are on the verge of a breakthrough which will give them the formula for a nasal spray to act directly on the brain and shut off feelings of hunger. According to Professor Gareth Williams of the university's department of medicine, a nasal spray for slimmers could be on the market by the millennium and will make multimillion-pound profits for the first drug company in the market.

Widow's poppy role

Sara Jones, the widow of Colonel "H" Jones, the Falklands hero, is to head the Royal British Legion's Poppy Factory. Mrs Jones, the vice-chairman of the Falklands Families Association and a central figure in the legion's annual poppy appeal for some years, joined the factory's board in 1984. She played a prominent role in welcoming Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother to the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey last month. The Poppy Factory makes about 34 million poppies and 100,000 poppy wreaths every year.

Clue to panto killer

The parents of the schoolgirl who was murdered on her way home from a Christmas pantomime have received a letter which police believe could be from the murderer's mother. Philip Jolyan, 46, and his wife Maureen, 46, whose 16-year-old daughter Mhairi was killed as she walked home from the Sleeping Beauty pantomime in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, on December 16, received the letter on Wednesday morning. Detective Chief Inspector Bob Lauder said the letter appeared to be from a concerned mother who had vital information about the murder.

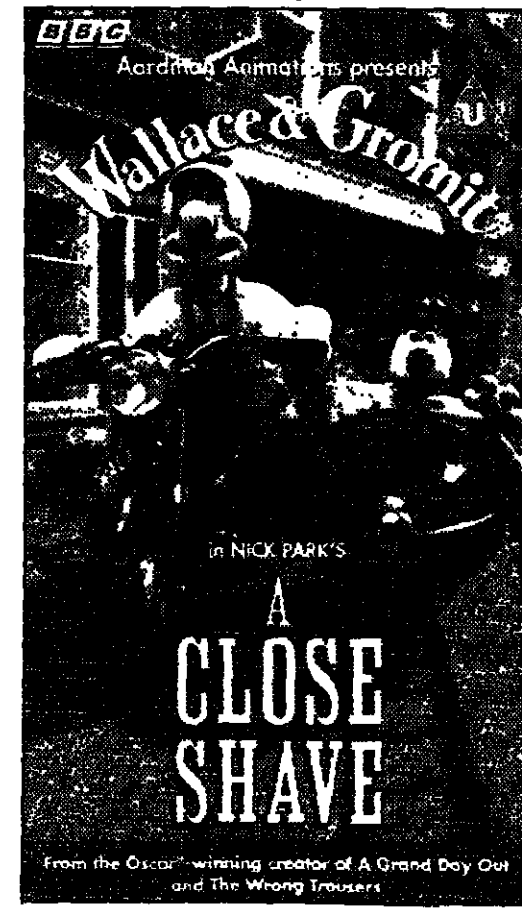
Drink detective sacked

A drug squad detective who was three times over the drink-drive limit when he crashed his car on duty has been dismissed from the Northumbria police force. Detective Constable David Hale, 34, whose father George Hale was head of the North East Regional Crime Squad, caused fury when he was convicted of drink-driving four months ago because magistrates were not told he was a police officer drunk while on duty. He was fined £500 fine and banned from driving for 18 months. Nobody was hurt in the crash at Whickham, Gateshead.

More cats abandoned

Cats are more likely than dogs to be abandoned at Christmas, according to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. New trends in pet ownership mean more people live alone with cats and are quick to dump them if they lose interest or find the responsibilities too much. The charity said, Duncan Green, director-general of Battersea Dogs' Home, said: "Two years ago we took in 1,300 cats. Last year it was 1,502 and this year it will be even more." Thirty dogs were handed into the home between Christmas Eve and Boxing Day.

More romance than
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BBC VIDEO

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

Supplies of milk, bread and food were taken to communities in Bixter and Walls on the west coast. South Mainland and Northmaine parish, 30 miles north of Lerwick. A convoy destined for North Roe could not get through. In most cases, the volunteers abandoned their vehicles and con-



On Shetland, Herbert Nicolson drags fodder across the snow for his sheep yesterday. It is too deep for tractors

Angus and Mary McKechnie, a retired couple on Bressay, saw their first visitors

vulnerable people to check they were safe but he said that people in the local communities were looking after each

Sumburgh airport in the south of Shetland was reopened and the first supplies from the mainland since Sunday arrived on the islands via

Lerwick's Gilbert Bain Hospital is beginning to run short of beds, as patients cannot be sent home. The coastguard helicopter airlifted four patients to Sumburgh airport for treatment at Aberdeen's Royal Infirmary yesterday.

Forecast page 18

Forecast page 18

Sunny outlook in village colder than Moscow

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

worst emergencies first. The AA sent a task force of 50 patrols to Scotland on Tuesday as weather worsened. Now the organisations fear that they will struggle to cope when Britain goes back to work next week. Tens of thousands of cars, not used over Christmas, will be in demand next Tuesday when a deep freeze is forecast.

Beware of a push start if your car has a catalytic converter. It sends neat petrol into the engine and ruins the catalyst, which can cost between £600 and £3,000. A jump-lead spark can explode battery gases. Ensure that leads are attached to the correct terminals, equipment is not faulty and there is no smell of stray gases.

out. Before running the engine and heater, make sure it is not blocked by snow, which could fill the car with carbon monoxide. Be patient and stay awake. Exercise to keep alert and warm. If you shiver, your body temperature is falling and, even if the shivering slows or stops, you must get warm immediately to ward off hypothermia.

The village, which comprises 20 houses and the Altnaharra Hotel, lies on Loch Naver, 23 miles north of Lairg in the extreme north of Scotland. It has some of the best salmon fishing in the Highlands.

The busiest man in the village yesterday was Bobby Mackay, a 44-year-old builder

Temperature plunges to -23°C

Orkney

50 miles

Atnaharra

Inverness

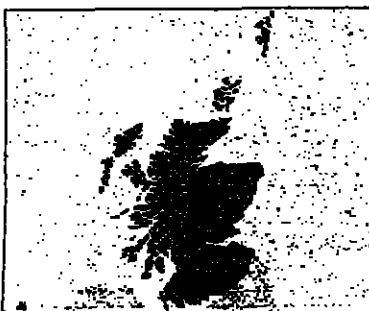
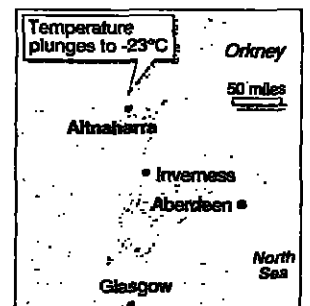
Aberdeen

Glasgow

North Sea

Lesley Wilkie, 30, the postmistress, said the villagers were coping well, although she had a scare on Christmas Eve when she, her husband Alan and children Gillian and Keith drove to Lairg to buy batteries for the Christmas

Perhaps the resident most familiar with the freezing temperatures is Mr Gray, a self-made millionaire and joint founder of Gray and Adams, which makes trailers for freezer lorries. Mr Gray said yesterday: "Minus 23? There's nothing new about that for me. That is exactly the temperature at which the articulated wagons we make carry frozen food."

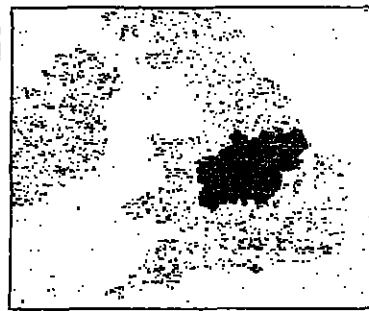


A939 between Corgarff and Ballater, the A941 from Dufftown to Rhynie, the B974 between Banchory and Fettercairn and the B976 from Crathie to Cairnshiell are closed.



THE NORTH

Main roads generally quiet but the A62 at Oldham is partly closed and likely to remain so because of a water-main burst.



MIDLANDS

The A456 in Birmingham city centre has been reduced to one lane after a water main burst.



ULSTER WALES WEST

by snow or slush as warm front moves in. Roadworks on the M5 are likely to continue to cause delays in both directions at Glastonbury.



EAST AND SOUTH EAST

particularly busy with shoppers, especially along the A41. Kingston upon Thames was also congested with shopping traffic and is likely to be so again today.

WORLD OFFERS
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Lost without trace: every year 250,000 people leave a legacy of heartache and hope

For those left behind, the searching never ends



Lee Boxell: Body Shop lorries carry photograph

By RUSSELL JENKINS

MORE than 250,000 people are estimated to go missing each year and the number soars over Christmas and the New Year. About one in five is young enough to be classed by police as vulnerable.

The young runaways are often confused, angry and frightened of what might await them should they return home. One teenager who summoned up the courage to go back was swayed by an advertisement in a magazine about homelessness. Beneath her photograph the message read: "Please, get me off the streets." The appeal, placed by the charity Missing Persons Helpline in *The Big Issue*, convinced her that somebody was concerned about her welfare.

The alternative for the runaway might have been a life of drugs and prostitution on the streets. Her salvation was also a cause for

celebration among the 60 volunteers and 12 staff who run Britain's only national charity set up to find missing people.

This Christmas, the runaway was one of 14,000 people on the charity's computer database, which is housed in a spartan, donated office above a supermarket in East Sheen, southwest London. It receives 80,000 calls a year and, over the festive period, the telephones never stop ringing. The time of year when families are thrown together can create an explosive emotional mixture.

Mary Asprey, co-founder of the charity, said that young runaways might be escaping a bad situation at home. "They are probably right to get out. Perhaps they are being physically or sexually abused. They need to be found and got to a place of safety. A lot of adolescent girls aged around 14 and 15 years old do not get on with their parents. They

APPEALS

MISSING can you help?

Charity appeals use posters, magazine pages and Teletext

go to friends' homes, squats or sleep rough in sleeping bags. Some fall prey to prostitution and others, among the most urgent on the charity's database, become caught up in paedophile rings. Recently the charity was involved in the case of a 13-year-old girl from

Birmingham who had been missing for six weeks. She had visited a schoolfriend's house, where she had been imprisoned and forced into prostitution. Most runaways want to be found and about 70 per cent of cases are resolved. Each day the helpline

traces about ten people. That is little comfort for grieving relatives whose sons and daughters have been missing for years. They cling to a desperate hope that becomes increasingly forlorn.

Thousands of motorists would recognise the smiling face of Lee Boxell, whose portrait is emblazoned on the side of Body Shop lorries above the word "Missing". He disappeared from his home in Sutton, Surrey, seven years ago. Every Christmas his mother calls the helpline.

The charity liaises with police, social workers and care homes but its main task is to provide practical help and advice to relatives. Computers can gather intelligence, identify patterns emerging across the country and "age" photographs to bring faces up to date.

These images can be converted into posters. Four pictures of missing people are placed in every

edition of *The Big Issue* and on ITV's Teletext. Anyone who has seen them is asked to contact the 24-hour confidential helpline on 0500 700 700. The images of lost boys and girls are screened on television in a *Missing File* slot donated by Carlton Television.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, turned down the charity's plea for Home Office funding. He suggested that they were candidates for National Lottery funds but the charity learnt this month that its application had been rejected. "We feel terribly disappointed for all our volunteers and all the families who rely so heavily on us," the other co-founder, Janet Newman, said.

The charity's case has been taken up in the House of Commons by Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, and Austin Mitchell, the Labour MP for Great Grimsby.

'Since you've gone, this is a house without music'

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE festive season has been bleak for Ian and Karen Wilson. Their 16-year-old daughter Ruth vanished one month ago and they have no idea if she is alive or dead.

Bright and pretty, Ruth should be looking forward to a challenging year, balancing school work with a teenager's hectic social life. The sixth-former, who was studying for chemistry and biology A levels, left her comfortable home in Betchworth, near Dorking, Surrey, on Monday, November 27. She gave no hint of a deep personal crisis.

A taxi driver dropped her outside the Hand in Hand public house in Boxhill, a nearby beauty spot. When she failed to return, police launched a search across 1,000 acres of rough parkland with tracker dogs, helicopters and heat-seeking scanners. Sixth-formers from her school joined the hunt. No trace was found, but clues emerged about her state of mind.

On the day she disappeared, Ruth had popped into a florist's. After two days, a bouquet was delivered to her

mother. There was no card attached.

Two days later, police found three notes hidden under a bush in the Boxhill undergrowth. The notes amounted to farewells to her parents, her best friend and a teenage boy she knew. Nearby were empty packets of paracetamol tablets and a bottle of vermouth.

The Wilsons turned to the charity, Missing Person's Helpline, which is highlighting her case. Ruth's face can be seen on a thousand posters under the words: "Missing, can you help?"

Mr Wilson made a direct appeal: "I just want to say to her now, we love you dearly. We miss you terribly. We miss your music. We used to grumble about the sound of your electric guitar twanging away. Without it now, the house is just dead."

"Since you left, the piano hasn't been touched. It is now a house without music. Whatever the issue that drove you away or you found difficult to cope with, we will do everything in our power to sort it



Ruth Wilson: left notes and sent flowers

confirmed sightings. Mr Wilson said: "Possibly she planned to commit suicide and then decided not to. It could have been a cry for attention. From there she moved on because she felt, in her state of confusion, that she could not come back. My message is it doesn't matter what has happened in the past. We want to go forwards."

Her sister Jenny, 13, is devastated. They shared a bedroom and she now has difficulty sleeping. For Mr Wilson, the worst moment came when he stepped outside the house one night. It was snowing and he could hear the bells ringing from their local church, St Michael's. Ruth used to ring the church bells. She had been to handbell practice the Sunday before she left.

The parents attended a service where she was due to carry the Crucifix. As the procession moved down the aisle, the tears streamed down their faces. Members of the congregation, people who had known Ruth's generosity of spirit, spontaneously came over to embrace the grieving parents.

There have been two uncom-



Ian and Karen Wilson. Their daughter, studying for two A levels, gave no hint that she was in torment. She simply took a taxi ride and disappeared

Schoolboy may have turned to begging

By BILL FROST

ANDREW SMITH, the sixth-former who disappeared over a fortnight ago, has been sighted begging near the area where his bicycle and schoolbooks were found.

Yesterday police who have been searching for him asked the 18-year-old to contact his anxious parents. They expressed concern that the teenager, who was studying for four A levels and an AS level at Poole Grammar School, Dorset, might be attempting to live rough despite the freezing weather.

Andrew's father Ken said he was convinced his son was still in the Swanage area where his bicycle and backpack were discovered near the Old Harry Rocks. "There have been several sightings which answer his description. We remain very hopeful and appeal to Andrew to get in touch so we can talk this through," he said.

Mr Smith thought that taunts by classmates, together with examination pressures, might have proved too much for his son to bear. However, Alex Clarke, the boy's headmaster, had no evidence of bullying at the school.

Having sealed down the land-and-sea search for the teenager, police yesterday appealed to hoteliers for information. Inspector Ann Freeman said: "We are working on the theory that Andrew is alive and well. At 18, he does not have to tell us where he is. All we need is a telephone call from him telling us that he is safe."

Father pleads for news of teenager

By BILL FROST

THE father of a teenage girl missing since Christmas Day appealed for news of her yesterday. Louise Taylor, 18, disappeared after a Christmas Eve celebration with friends at a disco.

Her father, Robert, said at a police press conference yesterday: "Louise, we all love you. Please get in touch by any means. We want you back." Miss Taylor vanished after the disco at Spirals nightclub in Yate, near Bristol. Police are investigating the possibility that she was seen a short time later in the passenger seat of a blue Ford Fiesta driven by a female friend.

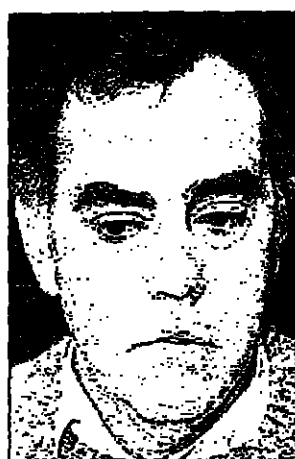
Mr Smith, 49, of Chipping Sodbury, made a brief appearance at Avon and Somerset police headquarters in Portishead. "Louise has never left home before, which makes it all the more worrying. There was no reason why she should leave," he said. About 40 police officers were searching the area near the nightclub yesterday, backed by a heli-

copter and door-to-door inquiries.

Louise had visited a nearby pub, The Swan, shortly before going to the disco. She spent most of the evening dancing and chatting with her friends. Her brother Richard, 20, was also at the party, although not with her group. He said she seemed to be enjoying herself and looked "fine".

Detective Inspector Chris Farrell, who is leading the search, said that Louise left when the disco ended about 2am. She went with her friends to a hamburger bar. For some reason she declined to go with them for a taxi. A male friend later thought he saw her in the front passenger seat of a blue Ford Fiesta driven by a friend called Emma.

Police were trying to trace the friend and the car last night. Mr Farrell said they were also following up a report that Louise had returned to the club later for some unknown reason.



Robert Smith appealing yesterday for his 18-year-old daughter Louise to "get in touch by any means"



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Guest list a secret at discreet Caribbean hotel devoted to 'the bliss of a special few'

Island hideaway where Princess most certainly isn't

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

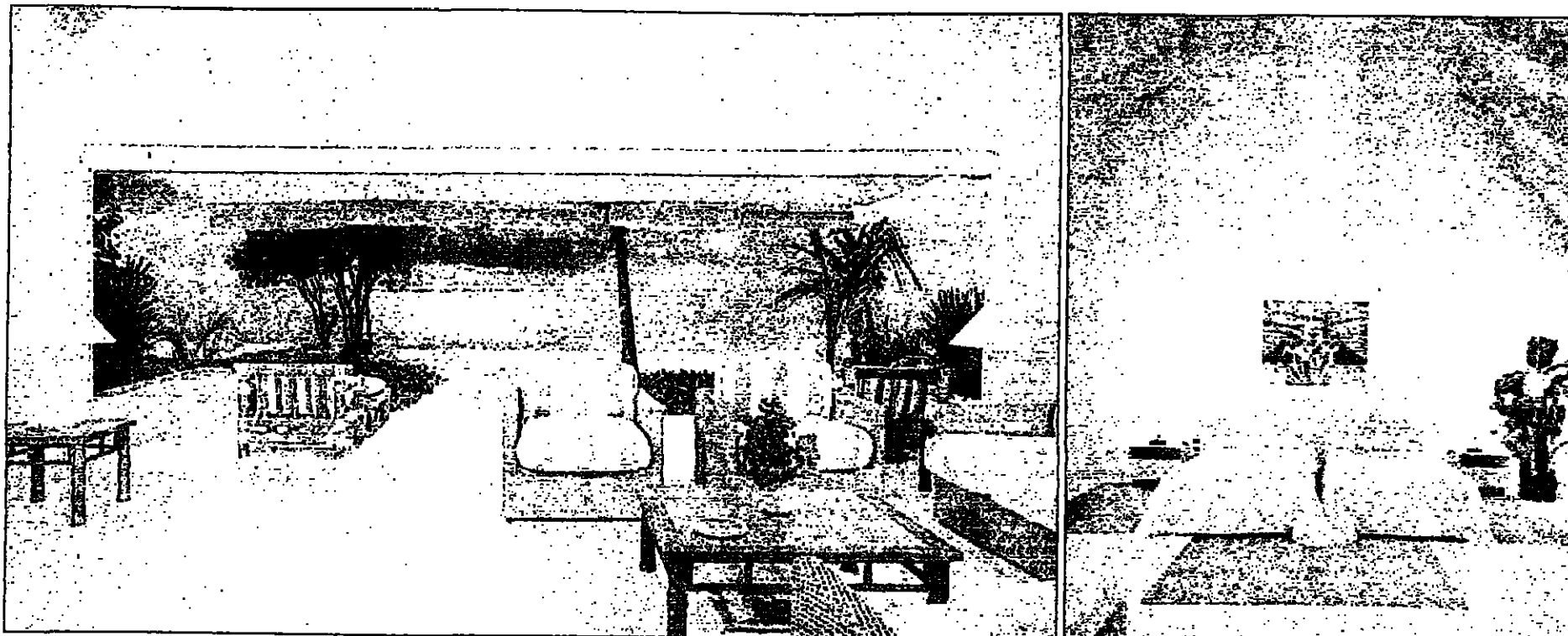
IT is the discreet sort of exclusive resort that does not boast of its guests by name. So there was no doubt about the official line from the K Club on the tiny Caribbean island of Barbuda yesterday: The Princess of Wales was not there. Absolutely not.

However, there were even denials about the presence of guests who were definitely known to be there.

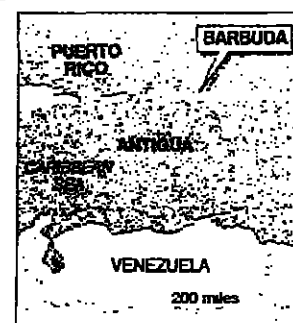
So who were the current £4,000-a-week guests in the 28 cottages? The only official clue lay in the words of "Krizia", the Italian fashion designer who set up the Club, saying it was "to give total bliss to just a few, a special few".

As the search continued to discover the location the Princess had chosen in preference to Sandringham and the British winter, the bliss of the special few seemed likely to be disrupted by some of the world's most determined photographers and Royal watchers.

The Princess flew first class with British West Indian Airways on Wednesday, and landed in neighbouring Antigua. It is thought she would then have taken a light aircraft for the 26-mile hop to Barbuda. The K Club offers privacy and luxury. It also bans children under 13, so 11-



Inside one of the cottages on Barbuda: a lounge looks out on the Caribbean. left, and one of the £4,000-a-week bedrooms. The resort exists to cosset the extremely rich



at the holiday complex claimed last night that the Princess was not a guest. They also insisted that other guests known to be at the hotel were staying elsewhere, perhaps at Coco Point, another hideaway club-hotel on the tiny island, or at a private villa.

There is no doubt about the kind of guest the resort wants. One brochure says: "Expensive, exclusive and elegant, body and soul unwind here as nature casts its spell."

"No pressures, no worries, no cares: just solace in that rarest of pleasures — peace. The simple joy of sinking into deep, deep armchairs and sofas, easy conversation with like-minded escapees and a lazy breakfast on the huge terrace of your spacious, peaceful beach-front cottage."

The Prince of Wales and the couple's sons are due to leave for Klosters in the Alps on New Year's Day for a skiing holiday.

year-old Prince Harry could not have accompanied his mother even if he was not spending Christmas with the rest of the royal family.

The K Club is on a three-mile stretch of white sand and is painted in white and turquoise. "To reflect and transmit the palette of vivid colour all around". The ho-

tel's brochure demands that dress should always be "elegantly casual".

One of the most popular and expensive dishes served in the restaurant is the famed spiny lobster — said to be the best in the entire Caribbean — which lives on the miles of dense, wreck-strewn coral reefs which surround the

island and provide scuba divers and snorkellers with the finest sport in the region.

The island is part of the government of Antigua and Barbuda, and suffered much less damage than its larger neighbour when Hurricane Luis hit this summer, largely because the island is flat and has few palm trees. There are

fewer than a thousand inhabitants. Nearly all live in the village of Codrington and nearly all share six surnames. They can trace their lineage back to 1685, when a small group of slaves was brought to the island to tend the fields. Because sugar cane was not introduced by the early settlers, the island has remained

largely unspoiled and has abundant wildlife, with a large colony of frigate birds, mockingbirds, oystercatchers and ibis as well as wild boar and white-tailed deer.

There are few hotels or boarding houses on the island, and the K Club is reckoned to be the most exclusive, elegant and sought-after of them all. It is intended to be a place where the very rich can find comfort and above all, peace and quiet.

Jack and Jessica top list of favourite names

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

JACK and Jessica are the most popular names for babies born this year, according to a government survey published yesterday. Both names have risen in popularity from third place last year to emerge as favourites. Last year's top names, Thomas and Rebecca, fell to third place this year, just behind Lauren and Daniel.

The study shows how tradition vies with the influence of television, pop music and film. It also charts the decline of traditional favourites such as Margaret, Anna, Louise and Susan.

Shannon, the name of a character in the ITV soap opera *Home and Away*, has shown the greatest increase in popularity, in the top 50 girls' names, rising 22 places to 11th. Stephanie has registered the largest fall, of 11 places to 36th, according to the survey published by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

New entrants on the list are Ellie, which has risen, has risen 28 places; Abbie, up 18; and Kayleigh, up three places. None of these names was even in the top 100 in 1984.

Jade, the name of Mick Jagger's daughter, has fallen three places, Sarah by five, Holly seven and Melissa seven. Jennifer, having fallen eight places, is only just hanging on to a spot in the top 50.

But where have all the Margarets gone? In 1944, the name topped the list and a decade later was still in at number four.

Since then it has been in decline and today it is no longer in the top 50, having fallen to fourth place in 1984, dropped to 39th in 1984 and fallen out of the top 100 in 1974.

TOP NAMES			
Girls		Boys	
1 Jessica	+2	1 Jack	+2
2 Lauren	-2	2 Daniel	+2
3 Rebecca	-2	3 Thomas	-2
4 Sophie	+2	4 James	-2
5 Charlotte	-1	5 Joshua	-2
6 Hannah	-1	6 Matthew	-1
7 Amy	-1	7 Ryan	-1
8 Emily	-1	8 Luke	-1
9 Chloe	+2	9 Samuel	-1
10 Emma	-1	10 Jordan	-1
11 Shannon	+22	11 Joseph	+5
12 Laura	-3	12 Liam	+5
13 Bethany	+2	13 Alexander	+1
14 Megan	+3	14 Benjamin	+1
15 Katie	-3	15 Michael	-3
16 Lily	-3	16 Adam	-5
17 Sarah	-5	17 Connor	+11
18 Alice	-3	18 William	+1
19 Jade	-3	19 Jake	-1
20 Danielle	+1	20 Christopher	-8
21 Abigail	+2	21 George	+8
22 Olivia	+2	22 Harry	+8
23 Rachael	-4	23 Callum	+8
24 Eleanor	+8	24 Lewis	-2
25 Samantha	-5	25 Oliver	-2
26 Elizabeth	-5	26 Kieran	+10
27 Georgia	+2	27 Andrew	-7
28 Victoria	-1	28 Robert	-3
29 Holly	-7	29 Nathan	-2
30 Zoe	-3	30 David	-6
31 Natasha	-3	31 Jamie	-6
32 Paige	+2	32 Aaron	+1
33 Nicola	+4	33 Bradley	+1
34 Georgina	+1	34 Ashley	-1
35 Chelsea	+3	35 Jacob	-1
36 Stephanie	-11	36 Jonathan	-7
37 Alexandra	+3	37 Mohammed	+4
38 Natalie	-7	38 Kyle	+5
39 Jade	-7	39 John	-5
40 Ellie	+28	40 Sam	-2
41 Grace	+6	41 Ben	-1
42 Gemma	+6	42 Scott	-5
43 Kirsty	-4	43 Charles	+1
44 Abbie	+18	44 Sean	+2
45 Amber	+9	45 Edward	+2
46 Katherine	-1	46 Cameron	+18
47 Molly	+2	47 Nicholas	-5
48 Melissa	-7	48 Reece	+6
49 Kayleigh	+3	49 Charlie	+18
50 Jennifer	-8	50 Dominic	+2

Anna, Louise and Hayley have fallen out of the top 50 in the past 12 months, along with Alex, Richard, Stephen and Mark.

In the boys' list, Celtic names found popularity with parents. Cameron registered the biggest increase, rising 19 places to enter the top 50 for the first time at 46, while Connor rose 11 places to 17th and Kieran ten to 26th. Reece, another newcomer to the list, was up six places and Charlie up ten. Cameron, Reece and Charlie did not appear in the

top 100 in 1984.

Two names falling in popularity were Andrew and Jonathan, which both fell seven places, to 27th and 36th respectively.

The rise of four places by Mohammed reflected the size of Britain's population of Asian origin, though no other Asian names make the top 50.

There are regional differences, Liam making the top ten in Yorkshire and Humberside, and Jordan in the East Midlands. Shannon has risen by 25 places to enter the top ten in the West Midlands for the first time, by 15 places in the East Midlands and by 17 in Greater London. Bethany has risen to sixth place in the North. In the South West, Megan has entered the top ten after rising ten places.

While the nation puts Jack and Jessica at the top of its list, a survey of the first names spotted most frequently over the past year in the birth announcements in *The Times* shows that Charlotte and Thomas are in the top slots. They are followed by James and Alexander and Sophie and Emily.

Drusilla Beyfus, the etiquette expert and author of *Modern Manners*, said "The names seem to show that we are very conventional in choosing a first name. Most of the girls' names look as if they might be heroines in a 19th century novel. Parents might be playing safe with their children's first name and maybe with the second name they are rather more imaginative."

"Where are the more exotic names, the Tarquins and Rolands?"

The study is based on the first names of 578,000 babies born in 1995 and put on the NHS central register up to December 8.

How acne put a young army officer on the spot

WHEN Del Boy Trotter in *Only Fools and Horses* described his brother Rodney as a plonker, he translated an East End term to the City trading floors and even into polite society. The future of Nicholas Lyndhurst, who played Rodney, was assured. But Lyndhurst's acting career was nearly grounded before it could take off. In adolescence he suffered such severe acne that the stage seemed an impossible dream.

Severe adolescent acne can destroy self-confidence, undermine job opportunities and limit social activities. Last week one of my patients told me how, when he was in the Army, he was not allowed to join the regiment into which he had been commissioned until the dermatologists had cleared his spots. His colonel was adamant that too many pustules and blackheads were not compatible with the exercise of authority.

Acne is a disorder of the sebaceous glands of the skin. There are two problems: too



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

much sebum, the oil which lubricates the skin, is produced and the outlet of the gland producing it becomes blocked. When the sebum accumulates in the skin glands, it becomes highly irritant. The skin around the gland becomes inflamed and later secondarily infected with the formation of pustules.

The formation of blackheads is due to a slightly different process, in which the sebum is extruded so slowly that it has time to oxidise, causing the dark colour.

Acne is not confined to the face but is also common on the back and chest. Many people suffer from it until middle age. In severe cases

long-term antibiotic treatment is usually the first line of attack. The tetracyclines reduce the production of sebum and limit the amount of keratin blocking the glands' ducts and clear secondary infection. The best results are often achieved by varying the antibiotics. In milder cases local antibiotic preparations are useful.

Severe cases respond to Roaccutane (isotretinoin), but this can be prescribed only under specialist supervision. Women whose acne has an obvious hormonal basis often improve if prescribed Dianette, a combination of an oestrogen and an anti-androgenic drug.

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Blair faces policy battle within party

Labour plans to extend length of student loans

By Jill Sherman
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour Party intends to reform the student loan system so that repayments would be made over a much longer period. A consultation paper is expected to be published in the spring, in which varying repayments are made over about 20 years and are linked to National Insurance contributions.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, feels the present system has become discredited, with many graduates unable to repay their loans within the five-year limit. The Government's recent decision to shelve its plan to privatise the Student Loans Company has thrown the whole programme into doubt.

However, the Shadow Cabinet appears to be divided about the best scheme to replace it. A paper was expected last spring, but was delayed until the autumn and is now unlikely to see the light of day.

Mr Blair and some of his colleagues are wary about the electoral consequences of announcing a revamped loan scheme. He also has to persuade his own party to agree to such a policy, which would end Labour's tradition-



Rooker: sacked in 1993 for backing student charges

al commitment to free higher education. "A political decision has to be made," a senior source said. "Tony is worried about whether you can sell it to the electorate."

Two years ago Jeff Rooker, a former shadow higher education spokesman, was sacked from the front bench after drawing up a paper supporting student charges. The document, which was said to be opposed by Gordon Brown, was thrown out by John Smith after deep divisions in the party.

Nevertheless, Mr Blair is aware of the need to raise extra funds to improve higher

and further education services. He has privately ruled out a return to the system of student grants, in which graduates paid nothing towards their higher education.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, is said to favour the Australian loan scheme. Mr Blair, who is on holiday with his family in Australia, is expected to study how well it is working during his stay.

Under the scheme, students start repaying their loans once their salary reaches a certain level. The repayments can vary and can continue for as long as necessary, with smaller payments gradually increasing as earnings rise.

Under the British system, students have to start contributing when their salaries reach 85 per cent of the average wage, a point which Mr Blunkett considers too low. The British system involves mortgage-type repayments of 60 equal instalments over five years once the earnings level is reached.

There are some elements of the Australian system which are unlikely to feature in the Labour scheme. Since 1989 Australian students have had to pay about 20 per cent of tuition fees, which Labour would find hard to support. At present British students pay

back maintenance fees only. Bryan Davies, Labour's higher education spokesman, is drawing up a paper on student finance, with a number of options. They are expected to include a variation of the Australian system and a graduate tax, where all graduates would be taxed throughout their working lives, irrespective of the amount they borrowed.

"A decision still has to be made about whether you have a fixed repayment to give back what you have borrowed or an indefinite payment for the benefit you gain," said one senior source.

Over the next few months Labour's education team will also be publishing a series of papers on training and education. In February, Stephen Byers, the Shadow Education Minister, will produce a consultation document on workplace training, which will set out Labour's alternative to the training levy, which it favoured at the last election. The paper will also say how employers, employees and the State can contribute to training.

The party will also spell out how it intends to fund the one day a week of training or education which it has pledged for all under-25s who are unemployed.



Ann Fidler: police believe she may have opened the door to her attacker, who left her for dead after beating her about the head and slashing her neck

Husband finds wife battered senseless

By Richard Duce

DETECTIVES were last night trying to trace friends and acquaintances of a woman whose husband returned home to find her battered about the head. Ann Fidler, 43, was in a coma last night at Southampton General Hospital after a nine-hour operation.

Police are still trying to establish a motive for the attack. There was no sign of a forced entry at the end-of-terrace house Mrs Fidler shared with her husband Brett, the owner of a gymnasium in Eastleigh, near Southampton. Neither was there any trace of the weapons with which she was hit repeatedly about the head and slashed across the neck.

Mr Fidler returned home from work at the Power Factory gym, where Mrs Fidler also worked part-time, at 6pm on Wednesday. He found his wife in a downstairs room. Mr Fidler was staying with relatives yesterday.

Detective Chief Inspector Paul Stickler, of Eastleigh police station, said he was treating the attack as attempted murder. "We want to speak to anyone who knows Mrs Fidler and her lifestyle," he said. "It appears that she and her husband did not mix a great deal in the local community, so it is likely our inquiries are going take us to the gym."

Stores toast the new year with cut-price drinks

WEEKEND SHOPPING

SUPERMARKETS are trying to lure new-year party revelers with special offers. Asda has branded whisky and gin at £9.99 each and Bulgarian Oriachovitz cabernet sauvignon, a good red party wine, at £8.98 for two 1.5 litre bottles.

Marks & Spencer has £1 off selected champagnes and 50p off Gold Label chardonnay and cabernet sauvignon, while Sainsbury's, Sainsbury's and Sainsbury's have reduced their Cava Spanish sparkling wine by £1 to £3.99. Sainsbury's is offering Blanc de Noirs champagne at £9.95 and Bulgarian merlot at £5 for two bottles. Waitrose is giving a £3 saving for customers who purchase two bottles of its non-vintage champagne.

□ Promotions include:
Asda: fresh beef topside £4.38 a kg, frying steak £4.38 a kg, fresh chicken breast fillets £5.99 for six (879g), large avocado 39p, Galia melon £1.49, celery 39p.
Sainsbury's: large British gammon joints £4.39 a kg, topside/silver-side/top rump beef £5.69 a kg, pork pie 79p for 255g, pickled onions 99p for 70g, clementines £1.19 for a kg, Stilton £2.49 a lb.
Co-op: 1.8kg fresh duckling £4.79, fresh turkey crown £4.19 a kg, whole Scottish salmon £5.49 a kg, double

cream 59p for 284 ml, Birds Eye crispy crumb cod steaks £2.39 for six.
Iceland: minced lamb £1.69 for 907g, salmon fish cakes 99p for eight, cod bites £1.49 for 30, sweetcorn 99p for 907g, white chocolate gâteau £2.99.
Marks & Spencer: peeled king prawns £2.99 for 170g, frozen scampi in breadcrumbs £2.99 for 170g, lemon sole goujons £3.69 for 295g, clementines £1.99 for 1.7kg.
Sainsbury's: fresh turkey with giblets £2.18 a kg, tomatoes 79p a lb, iceberg lettuce 89p, grapefruit 25p, swede 22p a lb, orange juice 99p a litre.
Sainsbury's: whole lamb shoulder £2.89 a kg, crusty bake pork pies £1.49 for six, coleslaw 85p for 500g, oranges £1.09 for six.
Somerfield: boneless leg of pork £2.84 a kg, lean diced stewing steak £4.95 a kg, avocado 24p, carrots 59p a kg.
Tesco: boneless shoulder of pork £2.39 a kg, lamb loin chops £7.59 a kg, smoked middle bacon £1.39 a kg, St Peter's fish £2.29 a lb, new potatoes 39p for 800g.
Waitrose: Aberdeen Angus roasting beef £2.99 a lb, green celery 45p a pack, sausage-meat £1.39 for 450g, dairy vanilla ice-cream £2.19 for 2 lb, shortcrust mince pies 69p for six.

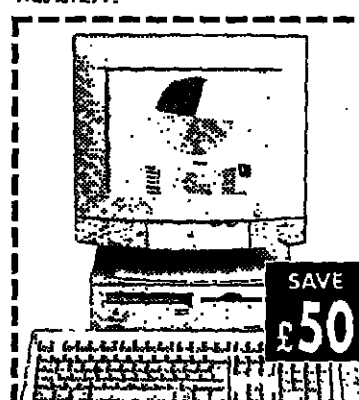
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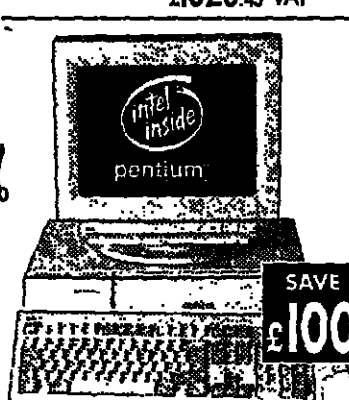
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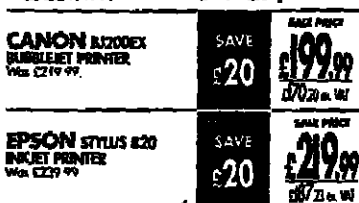
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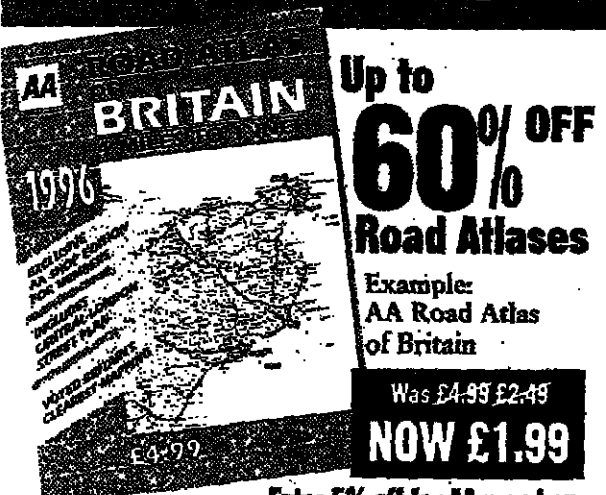
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British vets rally to help elephant with tusk-ache

A BRITISH medical team is on standby to fly to the Ukraine for a mission of mercy. Their patient is a five-ton elephant with a raging tusk-ache.

Boy, a 22-year-old bull, is in acute pain in his solitary pen at Kiev Zoo, which does not have the resources to treat it. Dominic Tropeano, director of Colchester Zoo, heard about the problem at an international conference on endangered species, and raised £9,500 to send help.

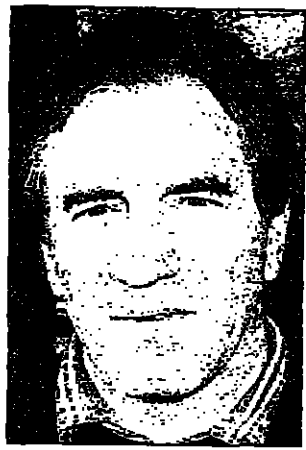
"I could not turn my back on this," he said yesterday. "The Kiev zoo cannot pay for such an operation and they do not have the skills anyway. It is up to us to help. Zoos around the world are a caring community and we are deter-

mined to do all we can." The British team is led by Peter Kertesz, a Harley Street animal dentist, and John Lewis, a member of the International Zoo Veterinary Group, which specialises in exotic species. They are now waiting for a decision on where to carry out the operation, which will involve removing the tusk or putting in a filling.

"We heard there was no indoor enclosure suitable for the operation," said Mr Tropeano. "It could not be done outdoors because the temperature is about minus 20. If we cannot get the necessary information, we shall have to go out to see for ourselves."

"It is vital to have the right enclosure to ensure the safety of the doctors and the animal when it is darted with anaesthetic. This is a very large bull which has been in agony for months and is probably very bad-tempered."

Mr Kertesz and his two assistants will need at least two hours to carry out the delicate operation, and may need a second session to treat the other tusk, which is broken. The dentist, who has performed surgery on bears, tigers and gorillas, said: "The drill we use is 3½ inches in diameter and needs a large motor. The elephant should be up and about within ten minutes. They don't have the same post-anaesthetic problems that humans can."



Tropeano: heard about animal at conference



Boy, a 22-year-old bull elephant, lives alone in his pen at Kiev. He has been in pain since the summer

Thousands fail to get school of their choice

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

RECORD numbers of children are being denied a place at their first-choice state school, Whitehall figures disclose today. The number of appeals by parents attempting to get their children into the school of their choice has more than doubled in five years, while the proportion overturning local education authority decisions has dropped over the same period.

Stephen Byers, the Shadow Education Minister, who received the figures in a parliamentary answer, said they showed that ministers' promises of greater parental choice had raised expectations that could not be fulfilled. "There is a growing army of parents who feel angry at being deceived," he said.

Pressure on popular schools was rising even before the Government began publishing examination league tables. The number of appeals against authorities' allocation of school places rose from 20,981 in 1989-90 to 45,876 in 1993-94. Throughout the period, more than 70 per cent of parents have taken their cases to a further appeal.

However, although the growth in appeals has led to more decisions being overturned, parents' success rate has dropped. In 1989-90, more than 43 per cent of appeals found in the parents' favour; five years later the proportion had dropped to 41 per cent.

Mr Byers, the MP for Wallsend, said: "In just over five years, more than 173,000 parents have been forced into making appeals. The Government has deliberately set out to raise the expectations of parents. We can now see the way the hopes of thousands have been dashed."

Head teachers and local authorities have reported an increasing number of fraudu-

lent applications by parents trying to circumvent the rules for admission to popular schools. The use of false addresses, applications from relatives' homes and claims to be moving into a sought-after catchment area have led some authorities to demand proof of residence.

□ Stress-related illness is forcing growing numbers of young teachers to seek financial help from professional benevolent funds, a teaching union claims. The Association of Teachers and Lecturers has seen a 30 per cent rise in applications to its benevolent fund in the past two years. Young claimants now outnumber the elderly members, for whom the scheme was established.

Officials blame the increasing stress of teaching for a rise in long-term sick leave and early retirements. Changes in invalidity benefit mean that fewer are eligible for state support. Five years ago, fewer than a third of beneficiaries were under the retirement age. Now the proportion is approaching two thirds.

The growing number of teachers facing mortgage arrears has been one of the principal reasons for the increase. Many have negative equity.

The fund paid out £70,814 in grants and £10,040 in loans last year. Among the beneficiaries were a 32-year-old whose husband left her after the birth of their baby, and a 36-year-old man who gave up teaching because of ill-health and is living on state benefits.

Other teaching unions have reported similar trends. The largest fund, established by the organisation which spawned the National Union of Teachers, is making 10 per cent more hardship grants than in 1993.

Osprey may return after 150 years



The osprey: lost in 1842

OSPREYS, which have not lived in England since 1842, are to return to Leicestershire. Trophy-hunters and egg-collectors wiped out the bird, but now ten chicks are to be taken from the one nesting site in Britain and reintroduced to Rutland Water.

Ospreys have been breeding at Loch Garten in the Highlands since 1959, when a conservation project began. There are more than 100 pairs north of the border. The birds have been seen in recent summers on Rutland Water, stopping off on their way back from winter migration to Africa.

The project, by Dr Stephen Bolt, a conservation scientist for Anglian Water, requires approval from conservation agencies. It hinges on the fact

that ospreys have three chicks but raise only two. "The third is nature's insurance policy against one chick dying and it is these birds that we hope to take to Rutland Water next June," Dr Bolt said.

"We are hoping the birds will stay on the lake for around ten weeks before flying to Africa. We hope they will then return to Rutland Water, and if they do there is the possibility that they may spread gradually across neighbouring parts of England."

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Clinton will try to stem rising tide of illegal immigrants

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

SMUGGLING of foreigners into the United States has grown into a huge trade in "human cargo" that has become a national security issue, according to a report presented to President Clinton yesterday.

The report, compiled by a task force from government departments, urged Mr Clinton to take a more aggressive global approach to combat the growing practice. A White House official said the President intended to do so, if Congress would give him the money.

The report blames official corruption and lax law enforcement in countries from China to Europe and Latin America for creating a flow of hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens worldwide. Europe was identified as a main gateway to America for illegal migration, in part because of its reduction of border controls and the col-

lapse of a strong central authority in the former communist countries. Up to half a million illegal aliens entered Western Europe each year with a similar number waiting in countries of Central Europe and the former Soviet Union, the report said. Many eventually attempt to enter America.

Moscow was identified as a key transit hub with an estimated 200,000 illegals waiting in temporary shelters at any one time. All the countries of Central America were used to funnel people north to the United States, the report said. Taiwan was criticised for failing to halt the use of its ships for smuggling.

Smuggling was also highly organised in China and enormously profitable. Every year, gangs succeed in smuggling up to 50,000 people from China into the United States for fees of up to \$35,000 (\$22,600) each. The Caribbean is another significant conduit,



Wang Jianye, a senior Chinese planning official in Guangdong province, is escorted by police before his execution yesterday after a court in Shenzhen rejected his appeal against conviction in the city's biggest corruption case. He was

China executes bribed official

found guilty of taking bribes, corruption, bigamy and illegally crossing the border. A Hong Kong television station broadcast a report showing Wang and

two others being sentenced before his execution by firing squad. Gao Manpeng and Liang Jianyun, both bank bookkeepers, were found guilty of embezzle-

Fifth test rekindles Pacific protests

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA said yesterday that the latest nuclear test in the South Pacific would undermine attempts to rid the world of atomic weapons.

As nations in the region swiftly condemned France for detonating a fifth device in French Polynesia on Wednesday, Gareth Evans, the Australian Foreign Minister, said: "Every test that takes place not only creates new risks for the environment, but makes more difficult the achievement of the nuclear weapons free world."

Jim Bolger, the New Zealand Prime Minister, said: "France has become very wearisome in its total refusal to listen to world opinion."

In Seoul, South Koreans hurled eggs at the French Embassy and sprayed red paint on a sign to the building. Demonstrators fought riot police.

Dominique Girard, the French Ambassador in Canberra, said he told Mr Evans ridding the world of nuclear weapons would not be easy.

Old rival may battle Yeltsin

Paris: Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet President, said in an interview with *Figaro Magazine* published today that he does not exclude running in the presidential polls in Russia next year as a candidate for the Centre Left.

He said: "I am not ruling it out. Because I think we must get rid of the current regime [of President Yeltsin]". (Reuters)

Pilot saved

Athens: A Turkish pilot was picked up by a Greek rescue helicopter after he had ejected from his Phantom fighter aircraft near Greece's eastern island of Lesbos. (Reuters)

Paper chase

Munich: A security van driver grabbed 2.5 million marks (£1.2 million) from his vehicle two days before Christmas and replaced the cash with scrap paper, police said. (Reuters)

Biggest yet

Taipei: Taiwan opened the world's biggest museum on a 4.8-acre Taichung site. Dedicated to *The Guinness Book of World Records*, it features more than 100 displays. (AP)

Soft landing

Allentown: A skydiver who could not open his parachute plunged 3,000ft into a snowy field in Pennsylvania and survived. His back-up parachute opened just before he landed. (AP)

Dried out

Kuwait City: Alcohol-free beer has been banned from sale in Kuwait by Muslim authorities who said it could easily be turned into liquor, newspapers reported. (AP)

US judges succumb to 'bench stress'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE American Bar Association has identified a condition known as "bench stress", which leads some judges to behave in a manner that is far from judicious. It suggests that certain judges are near breaking point, worn down by the awful cases they oversee and unable to endure many more hours of legal argument from discursive lawyers.

Various courthouse events are cited as evidence. In Philadelphia, a judge hurled a glass of water at a lawyer inclined to overstate his case. One witness in a Louisiana court was told firmly by the judge that she was on his "turf" and that inside the court he was "God". A judge in Washington state advised a "smart alec" defendant to "shut up before you go to jail".

The *American Bar Journal* said that such incidents, which were indicative of stress, may harm the public's confidence in the judicial system. Formal complaints against federal judges have increased by 40 per cent in the past three years for which figures are available. The situation in state courts appears to be just as bad.

In New York, complaints were up by 24 per cent, while in Texas and Florida there were 47 per cent and 16 per cent more grievances respectively. "Injudicious temperament" is commonly given as the reason for complaints.

The great length of many court cases contributes to the stress felt by judges. The journal also noted that formal procedures such as the "all rise" order can unbalance a judge's self-awareness. Jeffrey Shaman, a Chicago law professor, said: "You wear robes and sit up on a high bench. People stand up when you come in. Emotions are high. Attorneys can be obnoxious. It can really get on your nerves and it takes a special kind of person to handle it."

Marlboro Man lets train take the strain

By IAN BRODIE

THE Marlboro Man has abandoned the saddle and taken to the train.

After more than 30 years of showing their macho symbol bouncing around the Wild West, often with a Marlboro cigarette in hand or mouth, the Philip Morris company is giving him a taste of the sybaritic life.

Starting next summer, the firm will roll out a luxury train, the Marlboro Unlimited, designed and built exclusively for Marlboro smokers. Company officials say it will be a third of a mile of sleek red steel that will thunder across Marlboro Country, also known as Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Nevada.

On board will be the world's first railway spa car with five hot tubs plus massage rooms. Then there is the dance club, the saloon and a casino car. Domed observation cars will offer sweeping vistas of the American West. Each couple

will have a lavish private suite, including bathroom. The dining car menu promises to match those on the finest cruise ships.

The train will cost an estimated \$20 million (£13 million), or about one million dollars a coach. Horse riding, white-water rafting and fishing will be on offer so that, according to company officials, customers can enjoy a taste of the Marlboro Man's life of adventure.

Smoking is not only permitted but required. Those invited for the five-day trips will be 2,000 winners of Philip Morris sweepstakes and their adult guests. The contest is open only to American residents who are 21 or older and who smoke.

The anti-smoking lobby is enraged. Scott Ballin, who is the chairman of the Coalition on Smoking or Health, said: "It's irresponsible and very distressing."

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook FRIDAY DECEMBER 29 1995

Barings shoots to top of table for City deals

By Robert Miller

BARINGS, the merchant bank that crashed under losses of £860 million in February, ended 1995 by topping the City league table for work on takeovers and mergers. It was fourth in 1994.

The bank, which the Bank of England refused to bail out and was bought for a nominal £1 by ING, the Dutch financial group, worked on 26 deals worth £19.48 billion during 1995, according to a league table compiled by *Acquisitions Monthly*. Eight of the Barings deals, collectively worth £16.8 billion, were public takeovers.

Baring Brothers advised Wellcome, working with Morgan Stanley, early in the year in the high-profile £9.1 billion takeover by Glaxo — the year's largest transaction. It also worked on the second biggest City deal advising Lloyds Bank on its £5.9 billion takeover of TSB group.

But there is certain to be

more controversy over bonuses at Barings after it emerged that Andrew Tuckey, the former deputy chairman who resigned after the crash and was taken on again as a corporate finance consultant, could receive a bonus-enhanced remuneration package worth up to £500,000. Mr Tuckey played a key role in the Lloyds-TSB deal.

Big-time City bonuses are back after company mergers and acquisitions generated a record £950 million in fees. Top staff in the most successful corporate finance arms can expect bonuses of at least 100 per cent, and in many cases 200 per cent, of salaries.

During 1995, SBC Warburg fell from the number one spot to number three. Warburgs worked on 48 deals worth £13.8 billion in total. The runner-up slot went to Lazard Brothers, ranked ninth in 1994, with 30 deals valued at £4.7 billion. Lazard advised

Glaxo in its takeover of Wellcome and is currently working on two large high-profile deals — advising Granada in its £3.1 billion bid for Forte and acting for National & Provincial Building Society in its proposed £1.3 billion takeover by Abbey National.

Philip Healey, editor of *Acquisitions Monthly*, said: "If these two deals had completed by now, Lazard would most probably have shot to the top of this league table."

Mr Healey added: "1995 was undoubtedly a good year for all those involved in mergers and acquisitions. Apart from the record fees which the year's flood of takeovers generated, it was also a quiet year when, after five quiet years, banks started to recruit, rather than remove, staff. In addition, merchant bankers are currently enjoying some bumper Christmas bonuses."

Among independent banks, besides Lazard Brothers, NM Rothschild shot up to number four from 11th in 1994, while Schroders fell from second spot last time to sixth this year, and Robert Fleming went from eighth to 11th.

US banks were also well represented with four of the majors in the top 20 — JP Morgan from nowhere to fifth, Morgan Stanley in at number seven, again from outside the top 20, Goldman Sachs, which dropped seven places to number ten, and Lehman Brothers back in the fold at 14.

Mr Healey said: "A number of the UK-based merchant banks were occupied with worrying about their own futures. This 'turmoil'... left the way clear for some of our US cousins to muscle in and lead some of the year's largest deals."

Pennington, page 21



Parting of the ways: David Rogers, left, pictured with Alan Sugar, leaves just 16 months after joining Amstrad

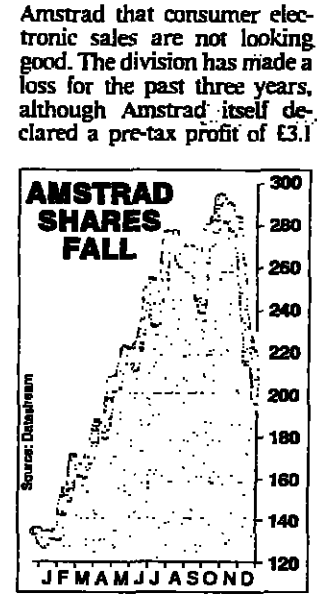
Amstrad shares hit by resignation

By Sarah Cunningham

AMSTRAD shares plunged yesterday after the company announced the resignation of chief executive David Rogers and a further restructuring of its troubled consumer products division. They closed 28p down at 191.5p.

Amstrad said Mr Rogers left because he disagreed with a board decision to cut costs at Amstrad Consumer Electronics (ACE). He will leave on January 12, after just 16 months with the company. Amstrad would not say if he is due any severance pay or comment on the terms of his contract.

Analysts were surprised by Mr Rogers' resignation and thought it was likely to have followed a disagreement with Alan Sugar, the Amstrad chairman. They were less surprised to hear from



million for the year ending June 30.

Mr Rogers, who is on holiday in the West Indies, told the Amstrad board before Christmas that he wished to leave. Jeff Samson, a non-executive director, said: "There was no row. The board took a decision to restructure, he did not agree and therefore left."

Analysts said it would be difficult to cut ACE costs further, pointing out that the division has few employees and contracts out most of its work. Details of the restructuring programme will not be announced for some weeks.

Mr Sugar, who owns about 35 per cent of the company, now worth about £77 million, is on holiday and not expected back until January 8.

Amstrad is now looking for

a successor to Mr Rogers, who was appointed in the wake of criticism of Mr Sugar's autocratic style. Mr Sugar, who is also chairman of Tottenham Hotspur football club, has a strained relationship with the City, particularly since the failure of his 1992 attempt to buy Amstrad back.

Amstrad shares hit a year-high of 300p in October but dropped sharply last month when Mr Sugar warned of late production start-up at Dancall, its mobile phone division. He also said ACE was finding the going tough, while Viglen, Amstrad's computer maker, was performing well.

"I think all the bad news is now built into the share price," one analyst said yesterday.

Pennington, page 21

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDEX		
FT-SE 100	3676.7	(+0.3)
Nikkei	19873.13	(+138.63)
Dow Jones	5087.61	(-8.31)
S&P Composite	613.57	(-0.96)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	112 1/8%	(111 1/8%)
Yield	6.00%	(6.01%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	6 1/2%	(6 1/2%)
Life long gilt	110%	(n/a)
future (Dec)		
STERLING		
New York	1.5385*	(1.5600)
London	1.5453	(1.5601)
DM	2.2200*	(4.2211)
FF	7.6015	(7.6730)
Sfr	1.7888	(1.7977)
Yen	158.69	(160.30)
£ index	83.4	(83.6)
DOLLAR		
London	1.4415*	(1.4335)
FF	1.1575*	(1.1570)
Sfr	1.0280*	(1.0283)
Yen	93.7	(93.7)
Tokyo close Yen	102.60	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brut 15-day (Mar)	\$17.80	(\$17.80)
GOLD		
London close	\$386.95	(\$387.35)
* denotes midday trading price		

Leeson ready to make decision over appeal

NICK LEESON, the trader blamed for the £860 million collapse of Barings, will tell his lawyer today whether he wants to appeal against part of his sentence. If he does go ahead and fails, he risks having a further year added to his six-and-a-half-year prison term (Robert Miller writes).

John Koh, Leeson's Singapore lawyer, yesterday confirmed that he would be visiting the 28-year-old former futures dealer to discuss the chances of having his sentence shortened. Leeson has already lodged a notice of appeal against the six-year sentence on a single charge of cheating. The six-month sentence on

another, lesser, charge of cheating is not part of the appeal.

Mr Koh said that Leeson was weighing up the certainty of serving around three-and-a-half years of his sentence against the emotional roller-coaster he would undergo if he launches an appeal.

Leeson, who intends to seek a place on an Open University course in business studies while serving his sentence, is aware that the Singapore authorities are determined to send a signal to would-be fraudsters that the island state will not tolerate its financial standing in the world's money markets being undermined.

Pennington, page 21

US banks were also well represented with four of the majors in the top 20 — JP Morgan from nowhere to fifth, Morgan Stanley in at number seven, again from outside the top 20, Goldman Sachs, which dropped seven places to number ten, and Lehman Brothers back in the fold at 14.

Mr Healey said: "A number of the UK-based merchant banks were occupied with worrying about their own futures. This 'turmoil'... left the way clear for some of our US cousins to muscle in and lead some of the year's largest deals."

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CBI sees room for further rate cut

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

A FURTHER interest rate cut may soon be needed to counter slowing economic growth, the Confederation of British Industry says today.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, the CBI president, gives a warning in his New Year message that manufacturers expect an imminent slowdown in output growth and says stocks of goods are at their highest since November 1992. "If this continues and inflation remains under control, we would support a further cut in interest rates to provide a stimulus to business growth," he says.

Declining growth in Britain is compounded by the weakening of European economies that are Britain's chief trading partners.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, cut base rates by a quarter point to 6.5 per cent on December 13 after official figures showed inflation was lower than expected and the rate of economic growth declining. In a new forecast, the CBI says

inflation will continue to fall. It has shaved its inflation forecast for 1996 by 0.1 per cent to 2.8 per cent, falling to 2.7 per cent by the end of 1997. That is close to the mid-point of the Government's 1-4 per cent target range.

After reworking its figures in the light of last month's Budget, the CBI sticks by its forecast that growth during 1996 will be just 2.5 per cent, rising to 2.8 per cent in 1997.

Sir Bryan says the CBI is "cautiously optimistic about the prospects for the economy". Consumer spending is expected to provide the mainstay of growth as incomes rise faster than inflation. He also expects a further fall in the number of jobless, saying: "Provided we are able to maintain a firm control of costs, we should see unemployment fall very close to the psychologically important two million mark."

Chambers link, page 20

Jewellery business collapses

A JEWELLERY chain that turned a market trader into a millionaire has collapsed with debts of £3 million.

Bow Bangles, which sold cut-price jewellery and fashion accessories and made Mark Smith one of the richest men in the Midlands, has called in the administrators.

The business employs 380 people and has a network of 70 shops. Until its collapse, it had seemed to be defying the high street slump to which it succumbed.

Established in 1987, Bow Bangles expanded at a rapid rate and planned to trade from 100 outlets by next year. Until recently, the firm had flirted with the idea of a stock market flotation.

Mr Smith, 38, first made money at the age of 23 when he sold second-hand goods, including records and car spotlights, from a Birmingham market stall made from orange boxes and a wardrobe door.

Fewer businesses end in failure

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE overall number of business failures fell slightly in 1995, but a rise in the number of large company liquidations is an ominous sign for next year, according to Dun & Bradstreet, the business information group.

Total failures were down to 41,303 from 43,525 after a fall in the number of small companies going bankrupt, but Dun & Bradstreet said that this decline of 5.3 per cent was disappointing, small compared with the 16.3 per cent fall between 1994 and 1993.

In addition, larger company liquidations rose by 5.6 per cent to 17,280 from 16,362 in 1994, the first time the toll has risen for three years. The biggest jump, of 28 per cent, was recorded in London, followed by Scotland, with an increase of 20 per cent. There were also rises in northwest and northeast England and a slight upturn in the West Midlands.

Philip Mellor, senior ana-

lyst at Dun & Bradstreet, said the number of large companies going under was worrying. "For the past nine months we have witnessed an increasing trend in company liquidations in the capital which has now spread to other parts of the country," he said. "It remains to be seen in the coming months what impact this will have on smaller companies."

In the last three months of 1995, overall business failures increased by a quarter in northwest England and by 16 per cent in the North East. Dun & Bradstreet said the disappointing results in the final quarter meant that there was little decline in the number of business failures in these two regions for the year as a whole.

Wales stood out as the region with the biggest decline in business failures of 19 per cent in the year as a whole. There were also large falls in the South West (18.5 per cent) and the South East (16.6 per cent).

Lloyds TSB shares enjoy modest opening day

SHARES in the newly merged Lloyds TSB bank group ended their first day of stock market trading at a modest 4 1/2p premium to close at 343 1/2p, capitalising the company at £16.3 billion (Robert Miller writes).

During the day, the new Lloyds TSB shares, which officially opened at 339p, went as high as 349p and as low as 313p.

Around one million former TSB shareholders whose names were on the ordinary share register at close of business on December 27, can also look forward to a special dividend of 68.3p a share, payable on January 18.

The final allocation of the new Lloyds TSB shares was only concluded on Wednesday evening. Lloyds Bank shareholders received 2,704 of the new Lloyds TSB shares, an allocation based on the share prices of both banks when the deal was first announced in October. TSB shareholders received a straight one-for-one swap, plus the special one-off dividend.

Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds Bank, yesterday denied reports that it wanted to sell TSB's Hill Samuel. Sir Brian said he saw the merchant bank as "a brand worth developing". He added that Hill Samuel's fund management and private banking businesses were areas to expand.

Meanwhile, Kent Atkinson, a long-time Lloyds Bank executive, was yesterday appointed group chief financial officer of the new Lloyds TSB group.

Boardroom pensions take giant strides

By Our City Staff

COMPANY directors are receiving huge pension contributions on top of high salaries despite public concern over executive greed, according to a report published today.

The survey, in the *Labour Research* magazine, states that more than a quarter of top directors of the UK's biggest 100 public companies were given contributions of £100,000 or more in one year alone, while just over half received £50,000 or more.

According to the report, Jim Ffield, a US-based director of the EMI Music division of Thorn EMI, tops the league

with a pension contribution of £869,000, higher than the salaries paid to most company directors.

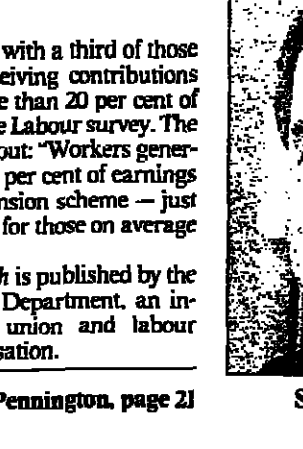
In second place is Sir Neil Shaw, chairman of the Tate & Lyle sugar and sweeteners group, who received £756,000 in pension payments. His contribution equaled more than 165 per cent of his £456,000 salary. The £257,120 pension contribution provided to Keith Orrell-Jones, chief executive of the Blue Circle building materials and home products group, was 80.3 per cent of his £320,320 salary.

"The executives also do very well in

percentage terms, with a third of those in the survey receiving contributions equivalent to more than 20 per cent of their pay," says the Labour survey. The researchers point out: "Workers generally get around 10 per cent of earnings paid into their pension scheme — just over £1,700 a year for those on average earnings."

Labour Research is published by the Labour Research Department, an independent trade union and labour movement organisation.

Pennington, page 21



Shaw: second highest

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Grid float discounts launched

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

TIM EGGAR, the Energy Minister, yesterday launched the discount payments to electricity customers that came out of the flotation of the National Grid. From next month, domestic customers will see their bills reduced by a one-off discount of £54.60 which comprises a £50 rebate decreed by the electricity regulator and additional returns from refunds on VAT and the fossil fuel levy which buoys the nuclear industry.

Although consumer groups have broadly welcomed the return, they are known to be lobbying Mr Eggar over the fossil fuel levy. Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, last week created controversy when he said that the levy — which costs about £20 a year on domestic bills — would remain and be reviewed again on privatisation of the industry. Michael Heseltine had earlier in the year pledged that the levy would go on privatisation.

Mr Eggar launched the grid payments at Seeboard, the electricity group being bought by Central and South West Corporation, the US utility. Seeboard has worked with the DTI to co-ordinate the bill discounting which will be completed by the end of March.



Tim Eggar watches the first discounts on electricity bills from the National Grid flotation being printed at Seeboard offices in Worthing, West Sussex

CBI and chambers herald new era of co-operation

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LEADERS of two of Britain's main business organisations are in talks about closer working arrangements in a move which could see at least some rationalisation of the UK's chaotic system of business representation.

Senior officials of the Confederation of British Industry and the Association of British Chambers of Commerce have been holding preliminary discussions about working more closely together, though both insist that there is no question of any merger of the two bodies.

The Government is keen to see a more coherent representation of business in the UK, though the initiative by Michael Heseltine, former President of the Board of Trade, for a rationalisation of Britain's rash of trade associations by insisting the Department of Trade and Industry will only deal with a particular industry's principal body has so far produced few results, if any.

Some Labour party figures are also insisting that business needs to reform its representation channels, maintaining that greater involvement in Europe, where social partnership including representative business bodies is now a part of the legal system, is increasing the pressure on business organisations in Britain to rationalise themselves.

Business leaders themselves recognise that the representation of industrial and service interests could and should be better. Talks have begun between the CBI and the BCC after a successful collaboration on particular projects, including a survey of business attitudes to Europe, which was extensively used by leaders of both main political parties and large companies.

Though the CBI is seen as much more of a force nationally than the BCC, chambers of commerce are strong at local level in individual towns.

Leaders of both organisations believe that closer working between the two could see a regional presence for the chambers, which would strengthen the CBI's regions, seen as a weak part of its structure. Talks on joint projects between the CBI and the BCC will be continued in the new year.

Discussions on policy issues are already taking place between national officials of the two organisations, which produce a range of competing material — not just on individual policy matters, but in such areas as the two bodies' regular large-scale industrial surveys.

CBI leaders, who have successfully grown a family of business surveys from its original key quarterly trends survey, would be reluctant to see any blurring of such products, just as the chambers would reject any moves which might see the end of the use of the name 'chamber of commerce', which has an international as well as a UK resonance.

BCC leaders, in particular, accept that many companies are irritated with the number of agencies operating locally for businesses and to which they are pressed to subscribe.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	2.18	2.02
Austria Sch	18.89	18.19
Belgium Fr	10.80	44.50
Canada S	2.224	2.094
Cyprus Cyp£	0.750	0.685
Denmark Kr	8.54	8.44
Finland Mk	7.33	6.83
France Fr	8.04	7.30
Germany DM	2.38	2.17
Greece Dr	389.00	384.00
Hong Kong \$	1.02	0.94
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.2900	4.6900
Italy Lit	2060.00	2414.00
Japan Yen	173.80	157.90
Malta	0.582	0.537
Netherlands Gld	2.540	2.418
New Zealand \$	2.52	2.30
Norway Kr	10.44	9.64
Portugal Esc	244.00	226.50
S Africa Rd	156.00	183.00
Spain Ptas	16.36	10.19
Sweden Kr	1.33	1.17
Switzerland Fr	88.27	82.72
Taiwan N\$	1.554	1.524
UK £	1.000	1.000

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

EDUCATION

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

E K Chambers Studentship in English Literature 1996

Applications are invited for the E K Chambers Studentship in English Literature. The Studentship is held at either Corpus Christi College or Somerville College, from October 1996 to those who wish either to undertake graduate studies in English Literature or to read English as a second language. Candidates must have read Latin or Greek (or both) at university and be competent in both. They must have graduated by October 1996 from a university in the British Isles with an honours degree in a subject other than 'single honours' English. The Studentship is normally commensurate in value to a British Academy award.

Further particulars and application forms are available from Mrs J Thompson, Assistant to the Secretary to the Board of Management of the Chambers Bequest, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD (telephone 01865 270202), to whom completed applications, accompanied by two pieces of written work on literary topics of not more than 2,000 words each, should be sent by Monday 15 January 1996.

The University seeks to promote excellence in education and research, and to an equal opportunities employer.

Argentina on Clarke trade visit

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, today begins a two-week trade mission to Paraguay, Argentina, Chile and Brazil, accompanied by leading City players, representatives from water and electricity companies and top Treasury officials specialising in privatisation and international financial affairs (Janet Bush writes).

The most senior British politician to visit Argentina since the Falklands War, Mr Clarke said that British companies should seize the enormous potential Latin America now offers to exporters.

The heavy representation from the City is part of an effort to export British privatisation expertise. Mr Clarke will also be talking to finance ministers and officials as part of the follow-up to the Halifax Summit initiative to review the working of the International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions in the wake of the collapse of the Mexican peso a year ago.

Building group incurs loss

BRITISH Building and Engineering Appliances, the building equipment and services group, incurred losses of £7.1 million in the year to June 30, compared with profits of £2 million last time (Martin Barrow writes).

Losses included an exceptional charge of £4.9 million against contract losses and write-downs and a £2.9 million on discontinued operations.

Robert Paine, chairman, said the company accepted the need to increase its activities, including the possibility of a merger with public or private owned companies. The loss per share was 57.9p, against earnings of 12.5p, and the final dividend makes a total of 2.5p, reduced from 8p. The shares fell 6p to 30p.

Dr Paine said current trading was in line with expectations and the group had made a small profit in the five months to November. National Westminster Bank, the company's principal bankers, "are being very supportive," he said.

Professional firms help communities

By JON ASHWORTH

BRITAIN'S leading lawyers and accountants are donating thousands of pounds' worth of free time to help community projects. Funds raised annually under the Business in the Community drive have reached £1.2 million after just six years.

Dozens of firms have signed up with the Professional Firms Group (PFG), set up in 1989 to channel professional time into local communities. Initially, ten firms each agreed to provide 100 hours a year of professional time, providing the equivalent of £50,000 in fees between them. The PFG now embraces 225 firms.

Christopher Jones, the PFG's founder chairman, said the initiative had proved tremendously successful, adding: "This is the delivery of free professional advice in the community, by local people in the community themselves. People go in, do a job, then get back to work."

Typical assignments include converting churches

into community centres, putting accounting systems into art centres and providing legal advice for community projects. The PFG also helps smaller charities to apply for lottery funding — a process otherwise beyond their means. An application for £2 million in lottery funds typically costs £10,000 in professional fees.

Mr Jones, who runs a strategy boutique for corporate property and advised the consortium buying into Canary Wharf in London's Docklands, said: "Smaller voluntary sector organisations are trying to get access to lottery funding but don't have enough money to put the application together. Accountants, surveyors and lawyers are putting together first-class proposals for funds of £1 million to £2 million, helping to get projects off the ground."

Anyone seeking help should contact Caroline Beer, the PFG director, on 0171 629 1600.

BUSINESS ROUNDPUP

Unit trust sales show signs of revival

UNIT trust sales to private investors in November were the best for seven months, leaving management groups hoping that the public's appetite for unit trusts had returned and the rising trend would carry on into 1996. The Association of Unit Trusts and Investments Funds (AUTIF) said that net retail sales of £335.4 million last month were the best since March's £375.8 million. Overall, however, net investment, which includes money invested by the institutions, was lower at £589.5 million compared with October's £603 million. But at £932.3 million, unit trust repurchases were the highest since March.

Net sales of personal equity plans of £283 million were up £5 million on the previous month, and the value of Pep funds rose by £700 million to £16.8 billion. A year ago, the value of Pep funds stood at £11.8 billion. Sales of the new-style corporate bond Peps, which started in July, were £93 million, the equivalent of 33 per cent of all net Pep sales. The total value of funds under management in November was £109 billion, compared with £107 billion in October and £91.7 billion a year ago.

Gilt auction dates

THE Bank of England yesterday announced the maturities of gilt-edged stock issues it intends to sell at auction in the first quarter of 1996. It will auction gilts with a maturity range of 2000 to 2020 on January 31 and March 27 and maturities of 2000 or longer on February 28. The February auction will extend the existing maturity range after strong interest in a new ultra-long stock was expressed by gilt-edged market-makers. The Bank said that the maturity of the ultra-long will be determined after further discussion with market-makers but will be 2020 or later. The longest dated stock at present is 2017.

Swalec ruling delayed

A DECISION on whether the move by Welsh Water to buy South Wales Electricity, its neighbouring utility, should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) has been delayed. The Director-General of Fair Trading is taking an extended period to study the proposals. Such an extension is permitted if the director needs extra time. He now has until January 25 to study the planned takeover, which would create the country's second super utility after Norweb's takeover of North West Water, which was not referred to the MMC.

Stagecoach joins race

STAGECOACH HOLDINGS, the bus and train operator, has confirmed its interest in bidding for London's Docklands Light Railway. The DLR, which operates driverless trains in the redeveloped Docklands to the east of the City of London, said it had received "significant interest" from potential bidders during a consultation process. Formal competition to run services will begin early next year. The winner of the franchise is expected to be identified in autumn 1996. DLR said. The Government plans to franchise the DLR to the private sector for seven years from 1996.

Land Rover pulls ahead

LAND ROVER has smashed production records, with a 35 per cent increase in the number of vehicles leaving the West Midlands factory this year. The success of the new Range Rover series plus the introduction of the Land Rover Defender and its Discovery, stakeholder to the US sent demand soaring during 1995. Before the Christmas break, the factory at Solihull was turning out 3,000 vehicles a week, making the plant one of the busiest in Britain. Production this year reached 127,287, compared with 94,472, the previous record set in 1994.

German chemical fears

EMPLOYERS in Germany's chemical sector have given warning that the country's sputtering economy may threaten growth in their industry only months after it roared out of recession on nearly triple-digit growth rates. BAVC, the employers' association, said a downturn in orders coupled with sluggish consumer demand indicate "stormy weather" ahead. BAVC said it was not yet clear whether the industry faces a temporary growth slump or whether the problems go deeper. In 1996, BAVC expects a stagnation in industries such as construction and textiles, key purchasers of chemicals.

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The Times will hold the randomly generated numbers on computer which will work out if any are winners. If they are, the readers who won Times tickets will be contacted immediately. The lottery competition runs all week and every day we will publish a different question. Today's question is:

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□ Great City minds ponder political change □ Independents gain from banking upheavals □ Amstrad's way with words

A look at life under new Labour

□ A COUPLE more deaths of ageing MPs, a fair actuarial chance, or even the odd bankruptcy, and John Major will have the election forced upon him, rather than being allowed to wait until spring 1997 and some firm green saplings of economic recovery.

The City, or the majority of it that has joined the game since 1979, has never quite been able to take seriously the idea of a Labour government. But various great minds have been addressing themselves of late to just what a Labour administration might mean for the individual sectors of the market, a task not helped by the deliberate lack of firm policy statements from new Labour.

The clear losers from new Labour would be the utilities, because the party is committed to a utilities tax, to the extent of having spent the money several times over. Utilities' executives say privately that they can live with the scale of tax grab being discussed, but the impact on share prices has been muted by the takeover frenzy in the power and water sectors. It is unlikely, however, that even the most radical Labour administration would extend the tax to British Gas in its current straitened circumstances, whatever the rank and file might think of Cedric Brown. Business most

distrusts Labour for its plans to implement a minimum wage, with the party's refusal to reach a firm figure only adding to that mistrust. Industries in the service sector that employ any number of low-paid workers would be especially hit, which means retailing and leisure.

Against that, a widening of the wealth base in favour of the lower end of the social scale would put more cash in the pockets of poorer consumers — good for leisure sectors such as bingo, the cinema and holiday operators.

Closer ties to Europe would help those already exporting there — GKN, Lucas and other motor trade firms already looking to gain from the forecast recovery in continental economies. Manufacturing, generally, might expect Labour to look more favourably on it, whatever the strains between factory floor and boardroom.

Received wisdom has it that the builders always do well under Labour, but received wisdom in this case is probably wrong. Tony Blair will have to show himself ultra-cautious on

inflation to have any credibility with the money markets, even if a dose of inflation would have been just the tonic for the housing market, along with a greater sense of job security under Labour.

But the prime beneficiaries under Labour have previously been the firms that build the roads and other big infrastructure projects. Labour, by temperament anti-roads, is not going to rush to boost capital spending, and it will take some years, given Britain's arteriosclerotic planning system, for the investment gap that has been opened up by the Tories to be closed.

Ranking the bankers

□ AGGRIEVED Barings bondholders may howl, but the hard figures on mergers and acquisitions for this year suggest Andrew Tuckey was worth the money. The former deputy chairman, now on a year's consultancy, was a key player in a number of the deals that pushed the bank to the top of the list.



There are three conclusions to be drawn from the figures provided by Acquisitions Monthly. One is that the fall of the House of Warburg cleared the way to the top, after Warburgs had hogged the number one slot for three years and had been expected to stay there. The second is that the upheavals in merchant banking, and the arrival of new owners for three of the leading contenders, favoured those who were still independent as well as the Americans.

Witness the success of Lazards and of NM Rothschild, both propelled from the middle ranks of the top 20 into the top four. Schroders is hanging on in sixth place, and boutique JO Hambro Magan is still in the running. JP

Morgan and Morgan Stanley both arrive from nowhere, with Credit Suisse First Boston moving up the list.

The third conclusion is that such lists, although providing a little year-end fun and harmless point-scoring, do not tell us a great deal about what will happen in 1996. The ratings have been heavily skewed by the one-off effects of huge deals such as Glaxo Wellcome, which served to push Barings and Lazards into first and second place.

Had Granada/Forte and Abbey National/National & Provincial both been completed before the deadline, Lazards would have been on top. But this is no guarantee where either of them will be next time — Barings almost certainly will not be top dog. The dimming of Warburgs' star behind a Swiss alp has made next year's list far less predictable.

There are two views on whether the spate of takeovers will continue to run. One is that prices of quoted companies have now risen beyond all reason. The second is that business will be keen to get that last deal done

before any Labour government that will be more inclined to block hostile takeovers. On balance, bank on the latter.

Back to square one for Sugar

□ AMSTRAD, that least bureaucratic of companies, chose a wonderfully bureaucratic turn of phrase to pump out a profits warning yesterday.

The structure of the consumer electronics division, the bit that loses money and supplies the goods sold in the high street, would have to be altered "with a view to reducing its cost base in line with its sales potential". Translation: less demand, lower sales, job losses, and an as yet unquantified one-off hit on profits.

That phrasing, and a somewhat stock market, delayed the necessary leap backwards for the share price. The surprise was the departure of David Rogers, brought in to provide a degree of credibility for what had always looked like a one-man band. The bigger surprise, perhaps, was

that he lasted 16 months with the combative Alan Sugar.

Mr Sugar arouses strong emotions. His employees love him to a fault. The City mistrusts him, and he has a Roddick-like contempt for the pin-striped suits in return. Amstrad was insisting yesterday there had been no row; certainly there was a dispute, as witness Mr Rogers's departure.

That dispute, over whether pruning of the business was needed, took place well before Christmas, but the announcement has, unsurprisingly, come out on one of the dead days between the two holidays. For Mr Sugar, it all looks like back to square one. He will need another chief executive, to retain what City credibility Amstrad still has. Happy hunting, Mr Sugar — and go armed with a very long service contract.

Fat forever

□ BOARDROOM bosses may be worth millions while they are actually bossing. But why do companies buy them such huge pensions as an age when they are no longer likely to quit and when they could easily provide for themselves? Shareholders might be that grateful, but boards dare not ask them. There is no excuse for humbler employees bearing the cost via the pension scheme, as they often do.

Airbus and Boeing land \$3bn PAL deal

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE has won a \$2 billion order for 24 wide-bodied aircraft from Philippine Airlines (PAL). Boeing expects a \$1 billion-plus order for eight 747 jumbos.

The European jet-building consortium, in which British Aerospace is a partner, has beaten off a strong challenge from Boeing of Seattle to supply aircraft needed by the Philippine carrier to take up unused landing rights in the United States.

Orders for 20 A330 twin-jets and four A340 four-engine aircraft will provide a much needed lift for Airbus. During 1995, Airbus signed contracts to deliver only 16 of its big twin-aisle planes. The bulk of

new orders in this battleground were won by Boeing Commercial Airplane of America, which secured 77 orders for its 777 twin-jet. Boeing will nonetheless receive orders for eight Boeing 747-400 jumbos — a market sector in which Airbus has no rival aircraft — as part of the \$3 billion-plus package.

An Airbus spokesman in Paris confirmed that contract details of the A330s and A340s are being finalised after a PAL official in Manila revealed which aircraft had been chosen. The official said that the airline expected to obtain finance from the US Export-Import Bank and export credit agencies in Europe.

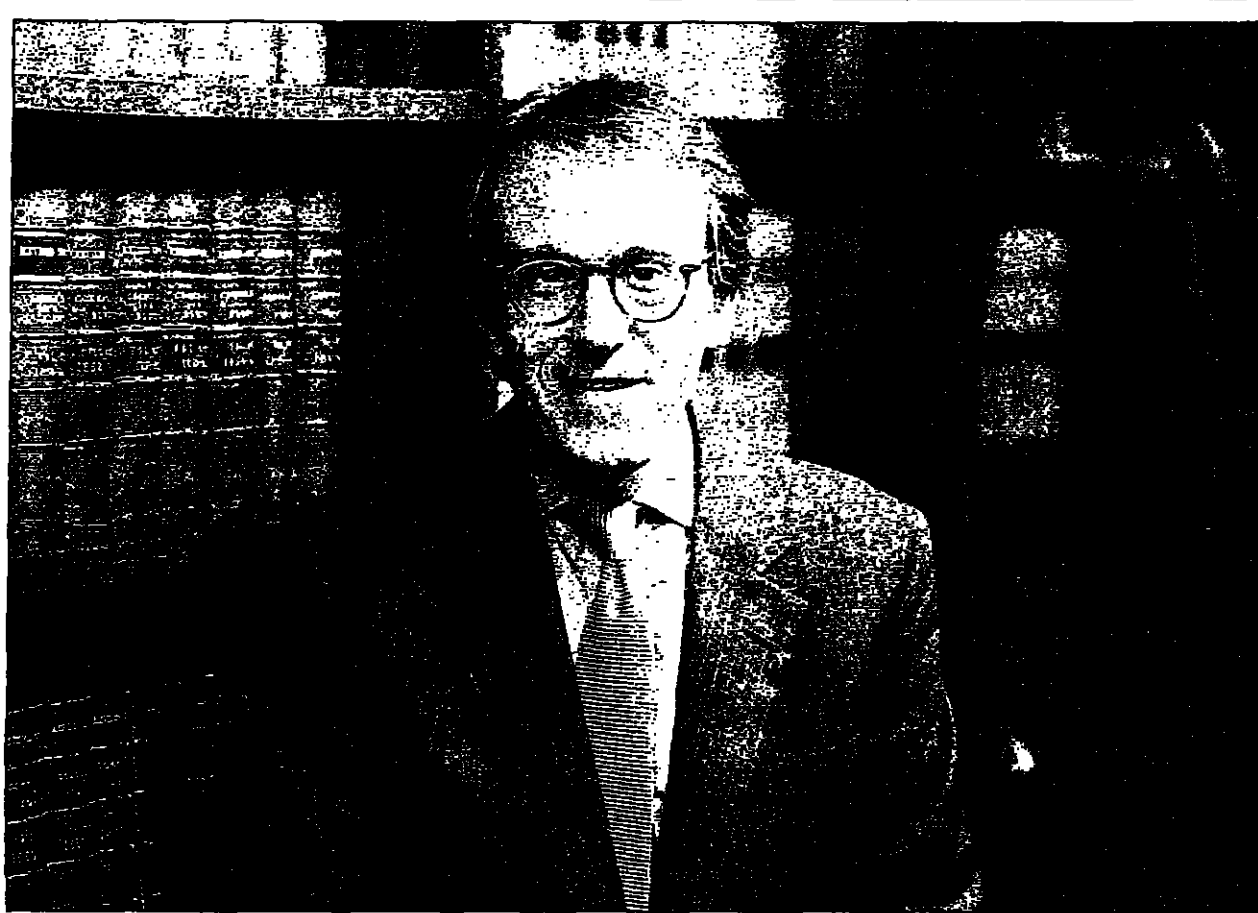
The fleet renewal programme has been approved by the airline's board and orders will be placed within weeks. "It would make our airline more reliable and improve our services," the unnamed official said.

Competition in the sub-jumbo category is particularly intense because the Western world's three leading civil aircraft manufacturers have invested \$1 billion apiece to develop new aircraft, which have become available before the build-up in demand predicted by the forecasters. The new aircraft come in variants with 300-350 seats, for either "long, thin routes" or to carry large numbers of passengers over shorter distances.

Airbus has firm orders for 269 of its A330-A340 wide-bodies. Boeing has 201 orders for models of its 777 that compete directly with the Airbus planes, plus 14 orders for its bigger 777-300. McDonnell Douglas, now pushed into third place in the civil jet league-table by the success of Airbus, has 168 orders for its MD-11.

British Aerospace designs wings for the entire Airbus range at its Filton site near Bristol and builds them in Chester. The aircraft are assembled in Toulouse, France. Rolls-Royce will be competing to supply engines to equip the Philippines aircraft.

Malaysian Airline System is expected to favour Boeing's 777 to re-equip and expand its long-haul fleet. Airbus is thought to be front runner to supply single-aisle A320-series aircraft for shorter routes.



Stephen Maran said Lloyds Abbey is injecting DM5 million into its loss-making subsidiary before selling it

Lloyds Abbey sells subsidiary

LLOYDS ABBEY LIFE, 63 per cent owned by Lloyds Bank, has sold Transleben, its loss-making German life assurance subsidiary, for DM10 million (Marianne Curphey writes).

The purchaser is Haftpflichtverband der Deutschen Industrie, which is paying £35 million less than Transleben's book value of £85 million. Stephen Maran, LAL

chief executive, said that LAL is putting another DM5 million into Transleben before the sale for solvency purposes.

Transleben is the only non-UK financial services business owned by LAL and has been recording losses in recent years, making a pre-tax loss of £13.6 million in 1994. LAL's accounts for the year to December 31, to be announced on

February 14, will include Transleben's losses up to the point of sale — about £5 million before tax — and the £35 million write-off.

David Nisbet, analyst at NatWest Markets, described the price as disappointing. He downgraded his 1995 pre-tax profit forecast from £402 million to £367 million.

French triumph in battle for Northumbrian Water

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE ten-month battle for control of Northumbrian Water ended yesterday as Lyonnaise des Eaux, the French water company, announced that its £223 million bid had gone unconditional.

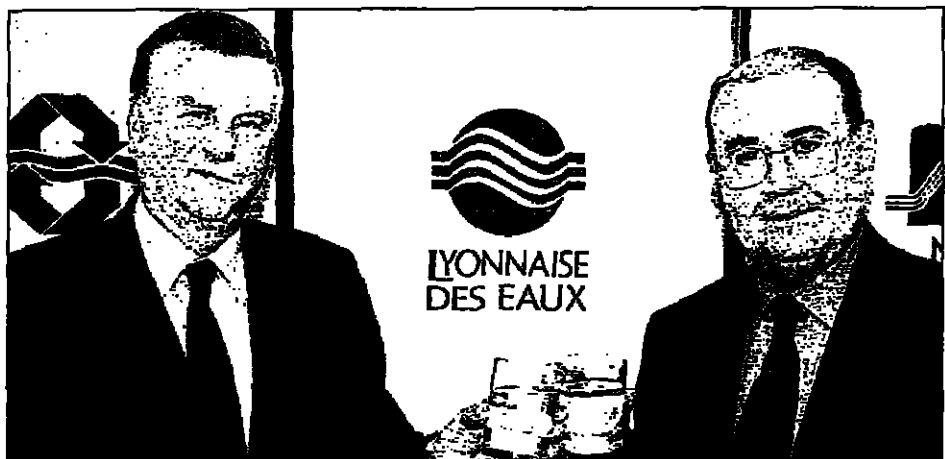
Lyonnaise said that it had received acceptances for 60 per cent of Northumbrian's capital by lunchtime on Wednesday, the closing date for the

offer, taking its total holding to 65 per cent. The offer has consequently gone unconditional and will remain open for acceptances until further notice.

The takeover battle started in March when Lyonnaise announced its intention to bid for Northumbrian. The bid was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Committee.

After the MMC had given its consent in the autumn, Lyonnaise surprised the City with a 1.16p-a-share offer, and Northumbrian's board, in spite of initial opposition, agreed the takeover.

Shares in Northumbrian closed up 4p at 1.173p, 8p above the bid offer but 6p below the price Lyonnaise will pay including a 14p special dividend.



Sir Frederick Holliday of Northumbrian, left, and Philippe Brongniart, of Lyonnaise

Cordis price dives over bid worry

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

SHARES in Cordis, the medical equipment manufacturer, fell sharply for the second consecutive day amid fears that Johnson & Johnson may abort its \$1.8 billion takeover bid for the company.

The shares dropped below \$95, making a fall of more than 11 per cent since J&J said two days ago that its due diligence exercise on Cordis would take several weeks longer than expected. Wednesday was the last day on which J&J could withdraw from the deal if it was dissatisfied with Cordis, but both companies said they were extending the deadline to January 22. The price fall has dragged the shares to about \$15 below the \$109 per share offered by J&J.

Some analysts said the delay simply reflected the time it would take to review the complex web of patents and cross-licensing agreements typical of many medical supply companies.

However, the relationship between J&J and Cordis, which rejected the original approaches of the medical supplies conglomerate before accepting the current offer, remains cool. This has raised concern that there may be management tensions between the companies that could scupper a deal.

The fall in Cordis's share price has turned the takeover offer into a graveyard for stock market arbitrageurs. When J&J first expressed interest in the company in October, they bid the shares up to \$112, only to see Cordis accept a lower offer of \$109. Many arbitrageurs are suffering losses of more than \$15 per share.

Flotations slump in 1995

THE number of companies joining the stock market tumbled in 1995. A total of 85 flotations raised about £2.6 billion, compared with a record 218 companies last year raising £10.1 billion and 163 in 1993 raising £5.2 billion.

Neil Austin, head of new issues at KPMG Corporate Finance, said: "In many ways there was bound to be a reaction to the very buoyant years of 1993 and 1994."

"Not only is there normally a cyclical pattern to the activity, but also the well publicised problems of some of the new issues which started to come to light in the second half of 1994 caused many institutional investors to lose interest."

Mr Austin said the general strength of the stock market in the latter part of 1995, with the FTSE index hitting new records, had changed the climate to some extent.

"The first half of 1996 looks as if it could be much busier than 1995. There are some large issues in the pipeline, including the privatisation of Railtrack, and activity at the smaller end is also picking up."

BP seeks advance for black S Africans

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

FREDERIK PHASWANA, the first black head of British Petroleum's Africa region and chairman and chief executive of BP Southern Africa, is aiming to increase the company's efforts to bring on its black staff.

Mr Phaswana, 50, who is a South African, took up his new job earlier this month, after three years as chairman of BP Netherlands and BP Belgium. "In developing black staff

we have perhaps not applied ourselves as hard as we should. It is a difficult problem but we could have moved faster, more fundamentally," he said.

He will have responsibility for refining and marketing operations in the whole of Africa, although BP's huge new In Salah gas production project in Algeria will not be part of his remit, as a new province it is run separately, a BP spokeswoman said.

Mr Phaswana was born in Louis Trichardt, a small town in the North-

ern Transvaal heartland of conservative Afrikanerdom, the son of a tailor and lay-preacher and a domestic worker. He was the fifth of nine children.

In an interview for a BP in-house magazine, Mr Phaswana said: "There is headroom for everyone to grow now and that is perhaps different from the past."

His own past involved expulsion from high school three months before his final examinations for being

involved in political protests. He managed to complete and pass the exams elsewhere and went on to study modern languages at university. He joined BP as a manual worker, becoming a personnel officer in 1973 and then moving into management.

Mr Phaswana said that white people in South Africa should not worry about black advancement in the workplace but should realise that they, too, have been in a "restricted business environment".

Specialist NHS services hit by skill shortages

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PUBLIC SECTOR employers are facing increasing skill shortages as the labour market tightens, a new study of the sector says today.

While private-sector companies have been reporting skill shortages as unemployment falls, today's report unusually points out that skill shortages in particular job specialisations — especially professional staff in the health service — are now affecting work in the public sector.

Looking at a sample of 76 National Health Service bodies employing 170,000 staff and 56 local authorities employing about 400,000 people, the study by Incomes Data Services, the independent pay research body, shows that recruitment problems affect most parts of the non-central government public sector.

In the NHS, the study says that most health organisations are facing difficulties in recruiting and retaining particular categories of employee, with notable shortages among physiotherapists, occupational therapists and psychologists. Nine-tenths of all NHS bodies surveyed report problems, and the study says skill shortages have "got worse", with "severe and persistent" shortages in some areas.

This marks a sharp increase from two years ago when only 45 per cent of health service bodies reported recruitment problems. The number of NHS bodies acknowledging they have no problems in recruiting and retaining staff has fallen over the same period from 53 to 18 per cent.

While half said recruitment difficulties were largely unchanged, 40 per cent said they have got worse and only 3 per cent that they have improved. Just under one third said they had problems recruiting physiotherapists, though the numbers reporting shortages among doctors and nurses were low.

Health bodies said that the continuing national shortfall in people being trained, the spread of fixed-term contracts and improved economic circumstances leading to higher turnover were the principal reasons for worsening recruitment. Skill shortages are seen as likely to be the main upward pressure on pay in the NHS in the coming year.

Despite the national agreement for a move towards local bargaining, most NHS trusts are still employing staff on national pay and conditions, though they expect that to change over the coming year.

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Takeover fever puts shine on returns

It was a good year for market investors in spite of a late bout of nerves, Michael Clark reports

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Blessed is the big giver

THE City is tearing its hair out trying to fathom who has written — and presented — a £1.6 billion cheque payable to HM Collector of Taxes.

BusinessAge, in its December issue, picks up on an item in this year's annual report of the Inland Revenue in which the IR admits the £1.6 billion item was accounted for "by one unusually large tax adjustment".

Speculation focuses on any number of FT-SE 100 companies. However, since any Footsie company which had suffered such a blow-out would by now have reported the fact in its interim or year-end statement, Glaxo-Wellcome, Hanson, BT and Unilever have been ruled out.

Perhaps the clue to the true identity lies in the IR's actual words... "action against non-compliance", which points to a company that has not been doing quite the right thing for a number of years. BusinessAge suggests.

The sleuths, lending an ear to gossip that the hit went through the IR's City office, favour a foreign banking, or banking-related, group.

As they say... it is more blessed to give than receive.



"Is this the queue for the special dividend?"

Fishing for trade

SAMMONS Associates, the headhunter, is promising a dose of self-promotion in January with a newspaper advert every Thursday spreading the word about who they are. But, methinks, they're doing all right as it is. The firm's City address is Fish Street Hill... and their Christmas gift to clients was a side of salmon.

Boxing stupid

ONLY from America... a card arrives from software group Tobson Associates of Chicago in a large but otherwise empty box. Proceeds from the card, which studiously avoids the word "Christmas", go to support various youth charities... and it cost \$7 to post the box.

Graphology

A PERPLEXED Euro Disney shareholder, in receipt of a letter from Philippe Bourguignon, chairman and chief executive officer, wondered why he was employing a man who could not write his name. (See illustration). "Subsequently it occurred to me that the squiggle was not an attempt at a signature but a share price graph — the straight line representing average share prices and the crooked line Euro Disney shares."

Inquire within

EVERYTHING you've ever wanted to know about Europe and more... the new edition of *The European Union Encyclopedia and Directory 1996* (Europa Publications) is published today. An A-Z section, a directory of EU institutions, a host of consumer bodies and professional organisations — and maps too! It's all yours for £195.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Share prices on both sides of the Atlantic shrugged off a brief panic attack before Christmas to end the year on a high note. As a result, investors can look back on 1995 with a certain degree of satisfaction.

It was the year when inflation finally appeared to be under control. Investors enjoyed some of the best returns on their money that the stock market has seen for a number of years. Corporate takeover activity also soared to its highest level, boosted by Britain's biggest bid battle, Glaxo's £9 billion offer for its rival Wellcome, and a seemingly endless stream of bids for the privatised electricity and water utilities.

Over the period, the FTSE 100 index of leading companies soared 621 points, or 20 per cent, to finish the year on a high note, in spite of that late bout of nervousness.

There can be little argument about the overall best-performing share in 1995. That honour goes to Unipalm, the computer software company that went surfing on the Internet just as the City discovered an insatiable appetite for technology stocks.

The Internet grabbed the imagination during 1995 and those companies that service it were clearly going to attract support. In the event, Unipalm found itself on the receiving end of a 450p-a-share bid from the American outfit UNUNET in November. The offer valued the company at almost £100 million and must have been even better than winning the lottery for Peter Dawe, who founded Unipalm with a £6,000 loan. Starting the year at 118p, Unipalm ended it at 650p, a staggering 450 per cent higher.

Another beneficiary of the Internet was Maird with a leap of almost 236 per cent to 232p, having been as high as 232p. Investors have been whetting their appetites in anticipation of the group offering its Pro-Net financial information package to the Internet's estimated 30 million users. The group appears to have overcome technical problems and can now offer 100 million pages of financial information at a profit.

Azlan is also hoping to make its fortune on the Internet and has begun expanding rapidly on the back of it. The computer network specialist group has already acquired businesses in Italy, Germany, France, Denmark and The Netherlands with finance provided by a £20 million rights issue in November. It has also announced distribution deals with two other Internet providers, Netscape Communications and Interactive Telephony. In fact, technology companies featured strongly throughout the year. The next best performance came from a small company with just a short history on the stock market, Oxford Molecular, floated in April 1994, specialises in software for the pharmaceutical industry. Investors were delighted by news of a link with Perkin-

Elmer, the US scientific instruments group, to develop the next generation of software products aimed at identifying genetic data so rapidly that it can be integrated in drug design. Oxford's shares started the year at just 50p but put in a strong finish to close at 258p, an increase of 416 per cent.

Other biotech companies to enjoy strong gains throughout the course of the year included Chiroscience Group, up from 97p to 328p, or 238 per cent, M.L. Laboratories, up from 130p to 349p, or 156 per cent, and Celltech, 307p higher at 588p, or 109 per cent.

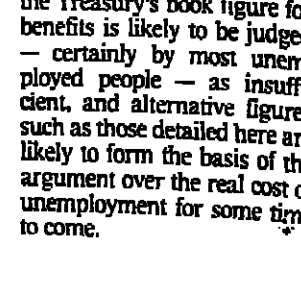
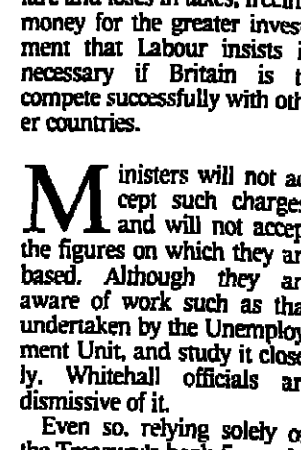
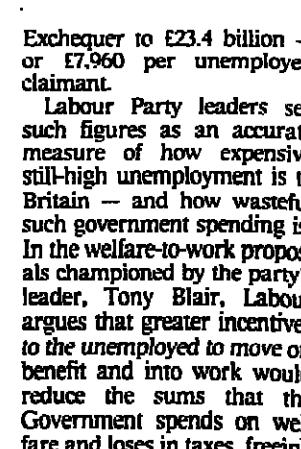
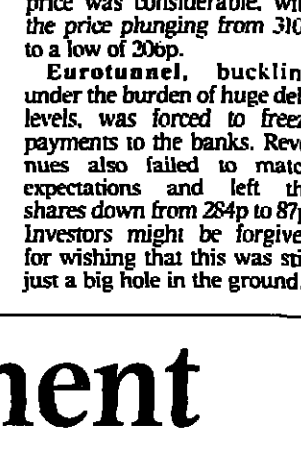
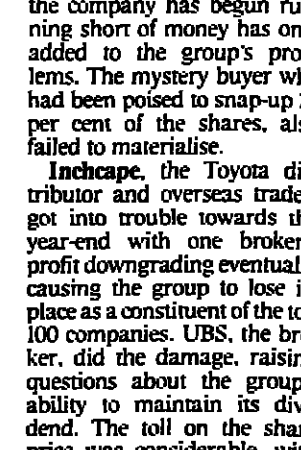
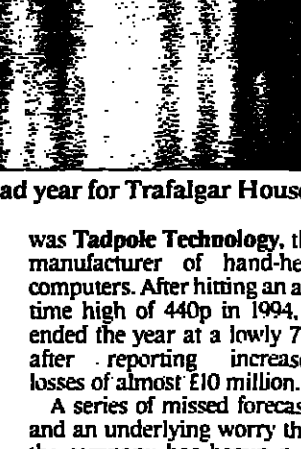
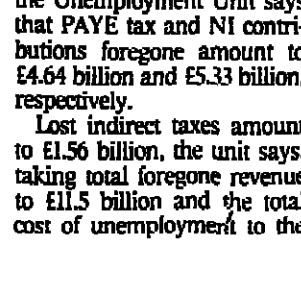
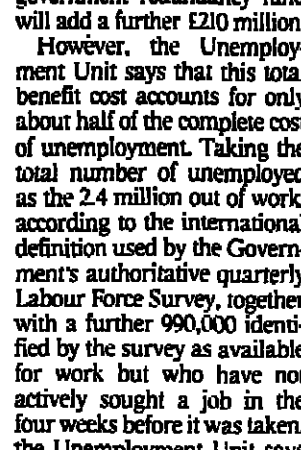
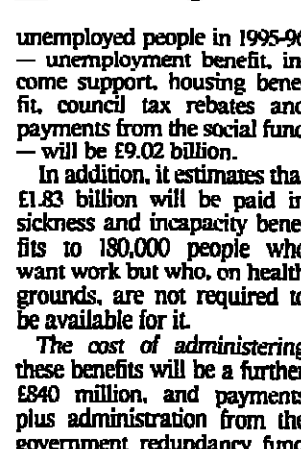
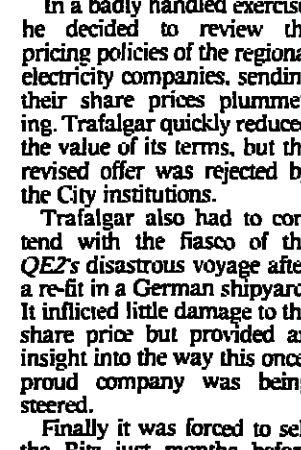
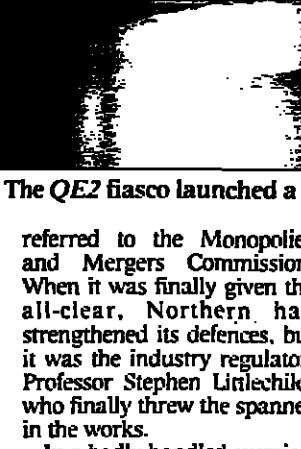
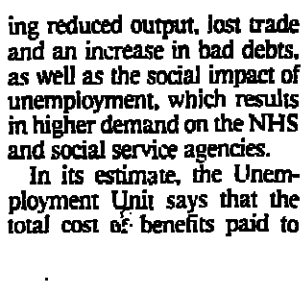
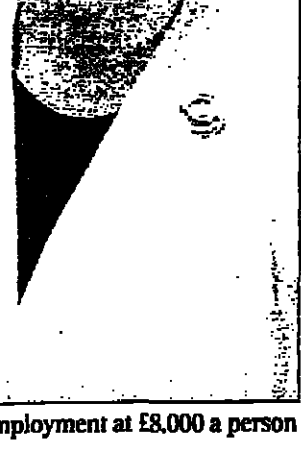
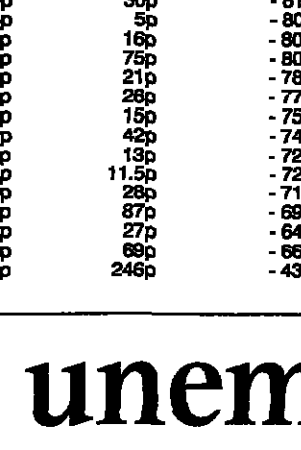
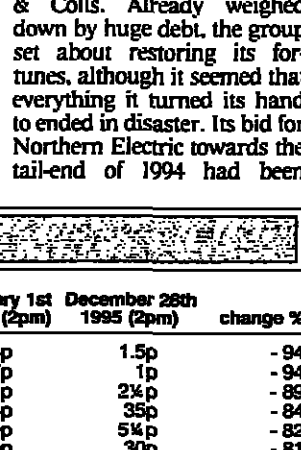
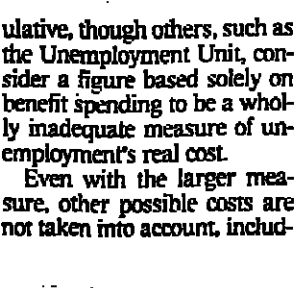
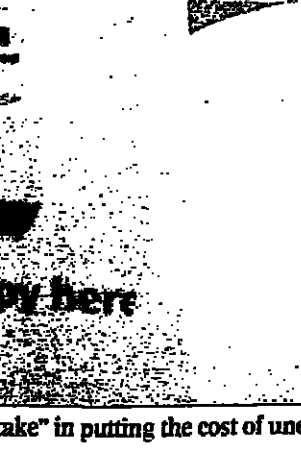
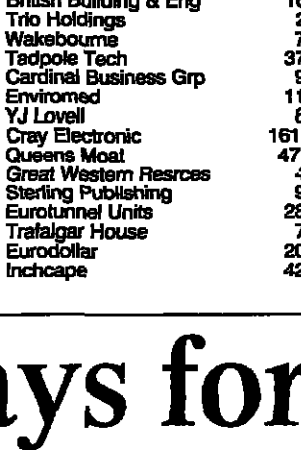
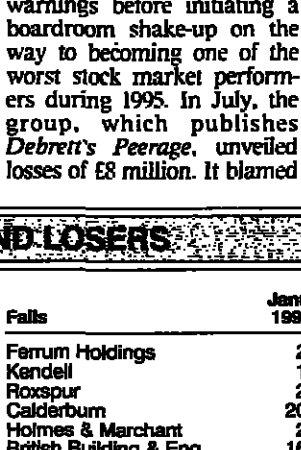
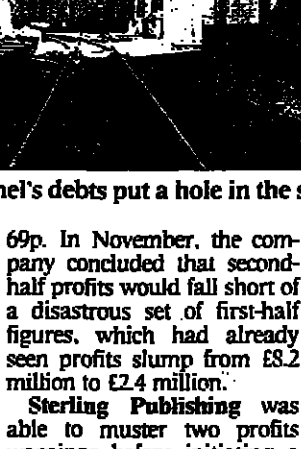
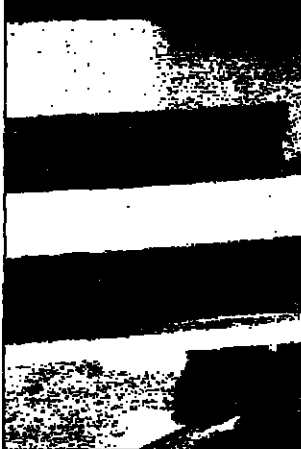
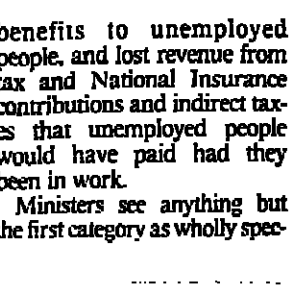
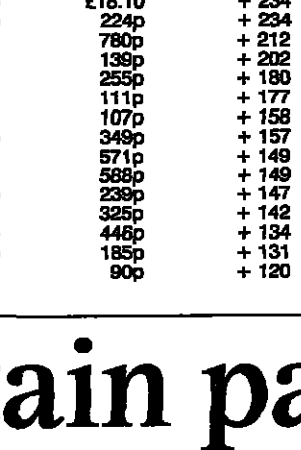
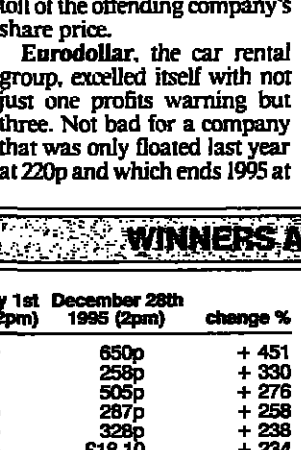
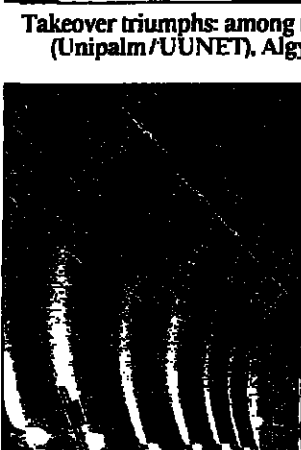
But the prize for one of the most spectacular and dramatic gains on the year goes to British Biotech. Having achieved a useful, if modest, improvement on the year, it finished 1995 on a high note. Within the space of two days, the price doubled from £10 to £20. There was even talk that the price had hit £50 in frenetic trading during one session in New York.

This flurry of activity was generated by the publication of an interim report on its cancer treatment Marimastat. This showed that the drug caused a statistically significant reduction in the growth of cancer cells in four different types of tumour. It ended the year at £18.10, a price rise of 234 per cent.

Even the company was taken aback by the surge in the share price. It was quick to point out that any firm conclusions about the potential of the drug would have to wait until the completion of clinical testing. But as the experts were quick to point out, a large number of drugs show promise during the early stages of testing and, at present, there are several rival drugs being tested that may achieve the same result.

The decision to apply for a US listing for its shares also provided a lift to Learmouth. Barchett Management Systems. The price responded with a leap of almost 288 per cent to 287p.

Takeovers included Fisons, which finally accepted an offer from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer. TSB Group benefited from the offer by Lloyds Bank, and Cluff Resources, up 158 per cent, was bid for by Ashanti. Speculators continue to live in hope with the likes of British



Takeover triumphs: among those with a winning hand were, clockwise from top left, Sir Richard Sykes (Glaxo Wellcome), Peter Dawe and Chris Batterham (Unipalm/UNUNET), Algy Cluff (Cluff Resources/Ashanti), Robert Cawthorn (Fisons/Rhône-Poulenc Rorer) and Sir Nicholas Goodison (TSB/Lloyds)



Tunnel vision: Eurotunnel's debts put a hole in the share price



Rough water: The QE2 fiasco launched a bad year for Trafalgar House

Aerospace and Standard Chartered. Perhaps 1996 could be their year.

While there was no shortage of bid speculation throughout 1995, there was also no shortage of profit warnings. They became almost a daily occurrence and manage to take their toll of the offending company's share price.

Eurodollar, the car rental group, excelled itself with not just one profit warning but three. Not bad for a company that was only floated last year at 220p and which ends 1995 at

69p. In November, the company concluded that second-half profits would fall short of a disastrous set of first-half figures, which had already seen profits slump from £3.2 million to £2.4 million.

Sterling Publishing was able to muster two profit warnings before initiating a boardroom shake-up on the way to becoming one of the worst stock market performers during 1995. In July, the group, which publishes *Debut's Peerage*, unveiled losses of £8 million. It blamed

those losses on an ill-fated move into Eastern Europe.

One of the biggest losers in 1995 was Trafalgar House, once a blue-chip conglomerate whose assets include the *Queen Elizabeth 2* luxury liner, the Ritz Hotel, and the construction firm of Trollope & Colls. Already weighed down by huge debt, the group set about restoring its fortunes, although it seemed that everything it turned its hand to ended in disaster. Its bid for Northern Electric towards the tail-end of 1994 had been

referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. When it was finally given the all-clear, Northern had strengthened its defences, but it was the industry regulator, Professor Stephen Lintch, who finally threw the spanner in the works.

In a badly handled exercise, he decided to review the pricing policies of the regional electricity companies, sending their share prices plummeting. Trafalgar quickly reduced the value of its terms, but the revised offer was rejected by the City institutions.

Trafalgar also had to contend with the fiasco of the QE2's disastrous voyage after a re-fit in a German shipyard. It inflicted little damage to the share price but provided an insight into the way this once-proud company was being steered.

Finally it was forced to sell the Ritz just months before revealing staggering losses of £321 million. Without the support of its biggest shareholder, Hong Kong Land, its future would almost certainly be bleak. As it was, the group saw its shares tumble from 78p to an all-time low of 21p. The price ended a miserable year for the company at just 27p.

One high-flyer that was knocked from its perch in 1995

was Tadpole Technology, the manufacturer of hand-held computers. After hitting an all-time high of 440p in 1994, it ended the year at a lowly 77p after reporting increased losses of almost £10 million.

A series of missed forecasts and an underlying worry that the company has begun running short of money has only added to the group's problems. The mystery buyer who had been poised to snap-up 25 per cent of the shares, also failed to materialise.

Incheape, the Toyota distributor and overseas trader, got into trouble towards the year-end with one broker's profit downgrading eventually causing the group to lose its place as a constituent of the top 100 companies. UBS, the broker, did the damage, raising questions about the group's ability to maintain its dividend. The toll on the share price was considerable, with the price plunging from 310p to a low of 206p.

Eurotunnel, buckling under the burden of huge debt levels, was forced to freeze payments to the banks. Revenues also failed to match expectations and left the shares down from 284p to 87p. Investors might be forgiven for wishing that this was still just a big hole in the ground.

What Britain pays for unemployment

Philip Bassett hears the debate on the true cost of joblessness

How much does unemployment cost? Even when unemployment is falling, the cost of more than two million jobless people, especially when close to half of them are long-term unemployed, is high. The politics of unemployment mean, however, that no one can agree how high.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, refuses to go beyond what the Treasury gauges is the cost of paying out benefits to the unemployed — currently, about £13.5 billion.

Giving evidence just before the holiday to the Commons Select Committee on Employment, Mrs Shephard admitted that she had made a "mistake" when, in her previous stint as Employment Secretary, she had estimated the cost of unemployment to be about £8,000 a person.

Pressed by MPs to update the figure, she insisted that such a total was not a government estimate. What she should have said, she acknowledged, was that such figures were those produced by independent bodies on the cost of unemployment, and that the Government did not endorse them. Even so, employment spe-

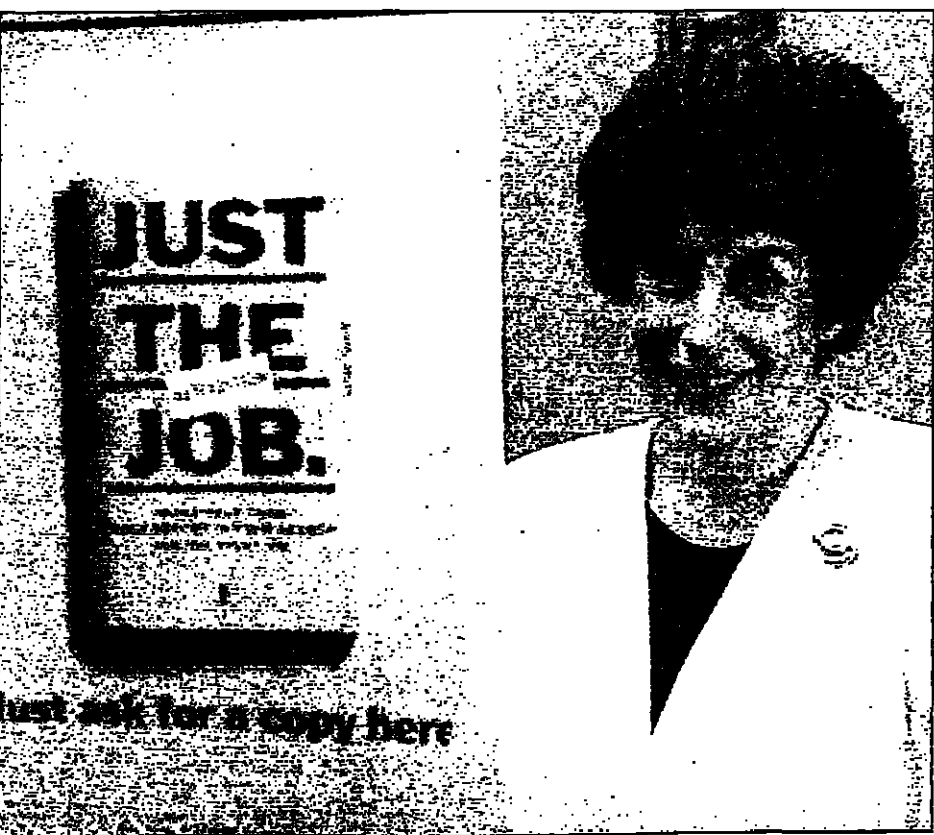
cialists see her earlier statement as a significant and rare pronouncement on the issue by a minister.

The Commons committee will announce its own findings on the cost of unemployment, and related issues, in a report in the new year, before it is wound up as a sole entity after the merger last summer of the Employment and Education departments.

The latest estimates by at least one of the independent bodies to which Mrs Shephard referred have just been produced and suggest that the total cost of unemployment per claimant is a notch under £8,000 — or £23.4 billion to the Exchequer.

The Unemployment Unit, an independent pressure group, says that this is equivalent to 4.6 per cent of GDP, or about two thirds of the current PSBR. The unit says: "Without government borrowing to finance it, the increased cost between 1990-91 and 1995-96 (almost £7 billion annually) would have required raising basic income tax rates from 25 per cent to 30 per cent."

These larger estimates than the Treasury is prepared to countenance consist of direct government expenditure on



Gillian Shephard made a "mistake" in putting the cost of unemployment at £8,000 a person

benefits to unemployed people, and lost revenue from tax and National Insurance contributions and indirect taxes that unemployed people would have paid had they been in work.

Ministers see anything but the first category as wholly spec-

ulative, though others, such as the Unemployment Unit, consider a figure based solely on benefit spending to be a wholly inadequate measure of unemployment's real cost.

Even with the larger measure, other possible costs are not taken into account, includ-

ing reduced output, lost trade and an increase in bad debts, as well as the social impact of unemployment, which results in higher demand on the NHS and social service agencies.

In its estimate, the Unemployment Unit says that the total cost of benefits paid to

unemployed people in 1995-96 — unemployment benefit, income support, housing benefit, council tax rebates and payments from the social fund — will be £9.02 billion.

In addition, it estimates that £1.83 billion will be paid in sickness and incapacity benefits to 180,000 people who want work but who, on health grounds, are not required to be available for it.

The cost of administering these benefits will be a further £940 million, and payments plus administration from the government redundancy fund will add a further £210 million.

However, the Unemployment Unit says that this total benefit cost accounts for only about half of the complete cost of unemployment. Taking the total number of unemployed as the 2.4 million out of work, according to the international definition used by the Government's authoritative quarterly Labour Force Survey, together with a further 990,000 identified by the survey as available for work but who have not actively sought a job in the four weeks before it was taken, the Unemployment Unit says that PAYE tax and NI contributions foregone amount to £4.64 billion and £5.33 billion, respectively.

Lost indirect taxes amount to £1.56 billion, the unit says, taking total foregone revenue to £11.5 billion and the total cost of unemployment to the

Exchequer to £23.4 billion — or £7,960 per unemployed claimant.

Labour Party leaders see such figures as an accurate measure of how expensive still-high unemployment is to Britain — and how wasteful such government spending is. In the welfare-to-work proposals championed by the party's leader, Tony Blair, Labour argues that greater incentives to the unemployed to move off benefit and into work would reduce the sums that the Government spends on welfare and losses in taxes, freeing money for the greater investment that Labour insists is necessary if Britain is to compete successfully with other countries.

Ministers will not accept such charges, and will not accept the figures on which they are based. Although they are aware of work such as that undertaken by the Unemployment Unit, and study it closely, Whitehall officials are dismissive of it.

Even so, relying solely on the Treasury's book figure for benefits is likely to be judged — certainly by most unemployed people — as insufficient, and alternative figures such as those detailed here are likely to form the basis of the argument over the real cost of unemployment for some time to come.

THE TIMES FRIDAY DECEMBER 29 1995

BANKS	
100	Am. Nat.
101	Bank of Am.
102	Bank of Cal.
103	Bank of Ind.
104	Bank of N.Y.
105	Bank of Pa.
106	Bank of Va.
107	Bank of Wash.
108	Bank of Wis.
109	Bank of Ont.
110	Bank of Mex.
111	Bank of Cuba
112	Bank of Porto Rico
113	Bank of Santo Domingo
114	Bank of Haiti
115	Bank of Santo Domingo
116	Bank of Santo Domingo
117	Bank of Santo Domingo
118	Bank of Santo Domingo
119	Bank of Santo Domingo
120	Bank of Santo Domingo
BREWERS	
121	Am. Brew.
122	Beck's
123	Budweiser
124	Coors
125	Heileman
126	Miller
127	Pabst
128	Sam Adams
129	Stroh
130	Wheat
BUILDING & CONST.	
131	Am. Const.
132	Bechtel
133	Booth
134	Brasfield
135	Clark
136	Condon
137	DeLong
138	Dodge
139	Edwards
140	Farrell
141	Fleming
142	Frost
143	Gilbert
144	Glavin
145	Granger
146	Harbo
147	Henderson
148	Hill
149	Holmes
150	Hughes
151	Imperial
152	Jones
153	Kaiser
154	Kellogg
155	Kidder
156	Kirk
157	Klein
158	Kohn
159	Kramer
160	Kutner
161	Ladd
162	Lane
163	Levy
164	Long
165	Lyons
166	Mack
167	McGraw
168	Mohr
169	Muller
170	Nichols
171	Orin
172	Parsons
173	Peterson
174	Phelps
175	Reynolds
176	Rice
177	Rosen
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BUILDING MATERIALS	
201	Am. Lumber
202	Bechtel
203	Booth
204	Brasfield
205	Clark
206	Condon
207	DeLong
208	Dodge
209	Edwards
210	Farrell
211	Fleming
212	Frost
213	Gilbert
214	Glavin
215	Granger
216	Harbo
217	Henderson
218	Hill
219	Holmes
220	Hughes
221	Imperial
222	Jones
223	Kaiser
224	Kellogg
225	Kidder
226	Kirk
227	Klein
228	Kohn
229	Kramer
230	Kutner
231	Ladd
232	Lane
233	Levy
234	Long
235	Lyons
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238	Mohr
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285	Shaw
286	Shaw</

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

17.1	614	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.2	615	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.3	616	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.4	617	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.5	618	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.6	619	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.7	620	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.8	621	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.9	622	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.10	623	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.11	624	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.12	625	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.13	626	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.14	627	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.15	628	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.16	629	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.17	630	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.18	631	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.19	632	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.20	633	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.21	634	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.22	635	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.23	636	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.24	637	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.25	638	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
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17.27	640	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
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17.29	642	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
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17.31	644	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
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17.44	657	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.45	658	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.46	659	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.47	660	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.48	661	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.49	662	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.50	663	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.51	664	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
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17.56	669	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.57	670	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.58	671	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.59	672	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.60	673	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.61	674	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.62	675	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.63	676	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.64	677	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.65	678	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.66	679	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.67	680	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.68	681	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.69	682	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.70	683	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
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17.75	688	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.76	689	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
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17.78	691	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.79	692	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.80	693	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.81	694	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.82	695	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.83	696	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
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17.85	698	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.86	699	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.87	700	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.88	701	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.89	702	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.90	703	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
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17.92	705	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.93	706	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
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17.95	708	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.96	709	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.97	710	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.98	711	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
17.99	712	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.00	713	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.01	714	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.02	715	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.03	716	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.04	717	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.05	718	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.06	719	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.07	720	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
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18.09	722	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
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18.23	736	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.24	737	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
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18.26	739	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.27	740	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.28	741	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.29	742	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.30	743	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.31	744	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.32	745	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.33	746	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.34	747	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.35	748	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.36	749	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.37	750	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.38	751	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.39	752	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
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18.44	757	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
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18.51	764	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.52	765	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.53	766	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.54	767	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.55	768	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.56	769	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.57	770	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.58	771	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.59	772	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.60	773	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.61	774	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.62	775	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.63	776	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.64	777	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.65	778	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.66	779	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.67	780	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.68	781	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.69	782	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.70	783	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.71	784	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.72	785	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.73	786	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.74	787	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.75	788	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.76	789	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.77	790	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.78	791	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.79	792	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.80	793	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.81	794	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.82	795	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.83	796	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.84	797	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2
18.85	798	220	Collect	568	+ 0	55	20.2</

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

197	WTEC Co	323	6	12	26.5
198	None Group	35		43	11.1
199	One Inc	25		15	

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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121	Dawson	108	+ 2	35	
126	Dewhurst (H)	180		21	17.2
130	Dixon (H)	36	+ 1	12	9.1

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12	56	Season	63			4.5	35.8

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▲ Ex rights issue ▼ Ex all; § Ex control distribution.



CHOICE 1

The Manic Street Preachers make a much-awaited return to live gigs

VENUE: Tonight at Wembley Arena



CHOICE 2

The countertenor James Bowman celebrates in a New Year's Eve concert

VENUE: Sunday at the Wigmore Hall

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 3

A tribute to the German pianist and composer Wilhelm Kempff

VENUE: Tonight at the Wigmore Hall



THEATRE

Cheek by Jowl brings its new international hit, *The Duchess of Malfi*, to Wyndham's Theatre

Benedict Nightingale on a West End run for Cheek by Jowl's *Duchess of Malfi*

Dramatic restorers at work

When Declan Donnellan and Nick Ormerod were together at Cambridge 20 years ago, they played the villainous Aragonian brothers — grumpy Duke Ferdinand, grumpy Cardinal — in an undergraduate revival of Webster's *Duchess of Malfi*.

What they mainly remember now are heavy-piled costumes that had been hired from the RSC after seeing service on the torsos of two famous actors called Williams, Emlyn and Michael. "We wandered around in velvet stabbing each other and thought we were marvellous," Donnellan recalls. "I hope all records of the production have been destroyed."

It hardly needs saying that such lavish period effects are entirely missing from the revival which Donnellan has directed and Ormerod designed for the troupe that the two friends founded back in 1981. Cheek by Jowl is, after all, famous for its simplicity, clarity, directness and lack of pretentious ad.

Now, as it breaks its world tour for a four-week stint at Wyndham's, audiences can see a *Malfi* that justifies the company's view of itself as, in Donnellan's words, "picture restorers, stripping away the veneer of sentimentalism that plays have accrued over the years".

Most directors see the play as a straightforward tussle between absolute good, as personified by the Duchess of Malfi herself, and unredeemed evil, as represented by the brothers who destroy her for making a dowry-market marriage. But Donnellan, not Cheek by Jowl, for him and his company it is *de rigueur* to abandon all preconceptions and "allow a play's world to invent itself". The characters and relationships that have emerged over months spent exploring and changing *Malfi* are decidedly unconventional.

Anastasia Hille's Duchess is not some passive heroine from another moral universe, but a chip off a block that has clearly been prefabricated by one of those dauntingly heavy fathers who haunt Jacobean drama. She is a proud Augustinian, her marriage to her steward, Matthew, Malfi's father, Antonio, seems far from straightforwardly happy, and her behaviour to her nephew, Scott Handyside's Duke Ferdinand, is most likely less compliant than contemptuous.

I think it's offensive to depict her as merely a victim," says Donnellan. "She's very much part of the world that precipitates the terrible things that happen to her." She is tough; she can be a matriarch; she becomes a tragic figure who, in his view, outmatches Cleopatra or Lady Macbeth in the depth as well as the extremity of her suffering.

Not is it only suffering which makes her tragic. As Donnellan sees it, the key factor is her struggle to become a woman rather than a public personage. "That means welcoming humiliation. She has to lose her vanity, shed



Will London see a reference to Princess "Malfi" Di versus The Enemy in Calabria's St James's Palace?

her self-protective identity, and try to discover who she really is, like Oedipus or King Lear or Richard II. And for that reason is a crucifixion."

This interpretation makes quite a difference to several key moments, not least to the Duchess's most famous line. Robbed of husband, children, freedom, she declares: "I am Duchess of Malfi still," with what usually comes across as majestic defiance. But when I saw Hille in Oxford two months ago, the line sounded more like weary self-doubt. Try as she may, she still cannot shake off the last vestiges of ego and arrogance. "Oh God, I'm the bloody Duchess of Malfi still," Donnellan explains. "There's a terrible, terrible despair somewhere there."

But don't rely on this being precisely Hille's intonation when the production opens on Tuesday night. Don't be too sure that the production's other incongruities, among them a Ferdinand more like a damaged child than a full-grown monster, will be what they were in October. With Cheek by Jowl every production is a work in progress. This is a company that held a rehearsal of *Measure for Measure* on the very last day of a seven-month tour.

There were regular discussions and rehearsals when the company was

performing at the Brooklyn Academy of Music earlier this month, and with them came subtle changes. The universe of the play is as dark as ever — "love is completely rotted, almost as if a colour has been sucked out of the spectrum" — but the characters seem less aware of a sort of hopeless hope where all was fatalism and misapprehension.

And we should expect the company's observations of New York's street life to have found their way into the production. "People's eyes not meeting, lunatics talking to themselves," Donnellan says. "You end up joining in and find yourself talking quite loudly to yourself too. There's such a feeling of dislocation in that city."

Donnellan and Ormerod like to leave a final decision on sets and costumes as long as possible, feeling that these should be determined by the ideas and feelings that occur in rehearsal, rather than vice versa. This time they have opted for what they call "20th-century transitional", meaning the suits and long dresses of Edward VII or George V's era, and are scarcely likely to turn to Jacobean ruffs and doublets for the London run.

Their rejection something more brashly up to date (Wall Street?

Mayfair casino country?) was partly because Webster's courtly milieu had naturally led to a certain stiffness of performance, partly because they wanted to discourage audience connections. "We're trying to articulate the truth of the heart, not to be anecdotal or specifically satirical." On the other hand, both Donnellan and Ormerod are well aware they cannot control the reactions in the stalls.

When they took *Measure for Measure* on its world tour, they were assured again and again that the hypocrite Angelo was the spitting image of some finance minister or other. It promises to be the same with *Malfi*, for reportedly it has already struck Dublin as having dangerous things to say about the Catholic Church. Rome as a disturbing reminder of Mussolini's Italy, and New York as being an angry, funny but refreshing "feel-good" play about a society in disintegration. Expect London to wonder if the company is not slyly referring to the current war within the Royal Family: Princess "Malfi" Di versus The Enemy in Calabria's St James's Palace.

"In country after country, people have told us how clever we were to choose such a timely play. But that's because a very rich stew builds up. It's about the supernatural. It's about sex. It's about politics. It's about redemption. It's about spirituality. Webster's characters are everywhere."

● The Duchess of Malfi opens at Wyndham's (0171-369 1746) on Tuesday night

LONDON

A WEEKEND AT THE WIGMORE
The Wigmore plays host to some very fine music this weekend, starting with Graham Oppen's *Homage to William Kierkegaard*. Barry Douglas then closes his vocal series with the new *String Quartet* tomorrow, while countertenor James Bowman joins the King's Consort for a New Year's Eve concert. Prague's top-right Whistler Quartet gives a Sunday concert.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-485 2141). Tonight and Sat 7.30pm, Sun 11.30am and 7.30pm. (S)

NEW YEAR FRIVOLITIES

Jack Stephens's *Magical Show* and a programme from Birmingham Royal Ballet are on offer this afternoon at the Barbican. New Year's fun continues with a performance of John Stais's *Die Fledermaus* tonight and a classical gala tomorrow. Sunday's *Wendell* evening is sold out. One at the South Bank, the magic of English National Ballet's *The Nutcracker* continues, along with concert from Danielle Carson and Michael Law, and a double bill of Johann Strauss on Sunday.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8811). South Bank, SE1 (0171-950 4242).

CARN

Lord Byron's biblical mystery, unlike Ayl's offering, is never quite catches fire in the music.
P.R. Barican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8811). Tonight-Tue, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 3pm. (S)

COMPANY

Adrian Lester, Shale Goff, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of *Sondheim's* *Into the Woods* at the National Theatre. *Into the Woods*, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed and Sat, 3pm. (S)

DEAD FUNNY

Belinda Lang, Kevin McAlpine and Sam Kelly in Terry Johnson's sharply funny play about comics and some of their fans.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8881). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm. (S)

DRACULA

Christmas return for Phil Wainman's ingenious adaptation of the vampire classic, directed by John Wainman. *Dracula*, SW1 (0171-222 2223). Tue-Sat, 10pm, Sun, 8pm. (S)

THE GLASS MENAGERIE

Sam Mendes's radiant production. Zoe Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter, Ben Walden is Tom.
Comedy, Park Street, SW1 (0171-733 3333).

NEW RELEASES

ACE VENTURA: WHEN NATURE CALLS (PG). Overbearing vehicle for rubber-faced Jim Carrey, down among African lions. Director, Steve Oedekerk. *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *MGM*: *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333).

FOUR ROOMS

Unhappy couple on a hotel in New York. Director, David Mamet. *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333).

HEAVY (15)

Slow, absorbing American independent film about frustrated lives from writer-director James Mangold. With Fruit Taylor, Vince, Liv Tyler, Deborah Harry. *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333).

THE WHITE BALLOON (15)

Simple, moving gem from Iran about a young girl's struggle to buy a goldfish. Director, Jafar Panahi. *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333).

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES
Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1. 10.45 daily. Recorded live 0171-493 4867. Advance booking 0171-493 4867. *THE ART OF A CONTINENT*. DAVID HOCKNEY, A DRAWING RETROSPECTIVE.

DANCE

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 0171 593 4242
ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET
THE NUTCRACKER
Unit 6, January
SWAN LAKE
8-13 January
SADLER'S WELLS 0171 732 8000
LONDON CITY BALLET
CINDERELLA
Unit 6, Jan
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sun 2.30, Jan 31
Jan 5 at 2.30, Jan 31

OPERA & BALLET

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Office and tickets.
Tonight available on the day
The Royal Opera
Tonight 7.30 (Last Night) AIDA
The Royal Ballet
Tonight 7.30 (Last Night) THE NUTCRACKER
PETER AND THE WOLF
TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER
Tonight 7.30 (Last Night) LES PATHEURS
TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER
Wed, Thu (Last Night) 7.30 THE NUTCRACKER
THURSDAY BALLET

TREATS

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Recorded information 0171 379 8884
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mon-Tue & Sat 3.00

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kite Anderson

POP DOUBLE BILL

Manic Street Preachers make their much-anticipated return to the stage tonight, as part of the Stone Roses ongoing tour. *Wembley Arena* (0181-500 1234). Returns only. (S)

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: It's a busy bear fun time again, with another in the popular series this afternoon. Martin Yates takes over tomorrow, for a *Matinee Orchestra* extravaganza of scenes from *Die Fledermaus* and *The Merry Widow*. *Arts Theatre* (0121-212 3333). Sat, 3pm, Sun, 2.30pm. (S)

LEADS

Don't miss another chance to see Opera North's new production of Verdi's *La Traviata* tonight. *La Traviata*, 2.30pm, 7.30pm. *La Traviata*, 2.30pm, 7.30pm. *La Traviata*, 2.30pm, 7.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jerome Kingdon's assessment of theatre in London
House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

368 1731

Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. *Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.*

HYSTERIA

Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potters as Salvador Dali, in Terry Johnson's surreal, double-act comedy. *Hyndford Street*, WC2 (0171-438 3333). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm. (S)

THE JUNGLE BOOK

Tim Supple's vigorous, utterly enjoyable adaptation of the three *Jungle Books*. A reworking of the original. *Young Vic*, The Cuff, SE1 (0171-928 6881). Tonight, 7pm. (S)

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET

A reworking of the original. *Young Vic*, The Cuff, SE1 (0171-928 6881). Tonight, 7pm. (S)

THE GLASS MENAGERIE

Sam Mendes's radiant production. *Young Vic*, The Cuff, SE1 (0171-928 6881). Tonight, 7pm. (S)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and Wales. Indicated with the symbol (S) on release across the country

CURRENT

BALE (U): Glorious, wondrous family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals. *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333).

FOUR ROOMS

Unhappy couple on a hotel in New York. Director, David Mamet. *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333).

HEAVY (15)

Slow, absorbing American independent film about frustrated lives from writer-director James Mangold. With Fruit Taylor, Vince, Liv Tyler, Deborah Harry. *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333).

THE WHITE BALLOON (15)

Simple, moving gem from Iran about a young girl's struggle to buy a goldfish. Director, Jafar Panahi. *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333). *Clapham Picture House* (0171-438 3333).

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Westminster Kings and the Medieval Palace of Westminster (0171-638 1555). *Hayward, Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1930-1945* (0171-638 1444). *National Gallery: The Renaissance in Italy* (0171-638 1444). *National Gallery: The Renaissance in Italy* (0171-638 1444).

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POP 1

Records of the week: a new compilation brings together all of Thin Lizzy's best-known tracks



POP 2

... while Jimi Hendrix and friends are remembered at the 1970 Isle of Wight Festival

THE TIMES ARTS



POP 3

Isn't it time Madonna took part in a little celluloid self-canonisation, just for fun?



TOMORROW

Arts review of 1995: is there any sign of cultural life beyond the National Lottery?

OPERA

Loud and unclear

Hänsel and Gretel
Queen Elizabeth Hall

IF YOU go down to the QEH today, or over the holiday weekend, you're in for a big surprise. Humperdinck's opera is amplified throughout. And very badly amplified too.

If Palace Opera, in collaboration with London Concertante and Finchley Children's Music Group, chooses to distort one of the great 19th-century operas, then that's their business. But I'm surprised at the South Bank Centre lending its name, and suggest — no, demand — that if operas are to be amplified, then this must be prominently stated in all advance publicity, so that those interested in the human voice and orchestral timbre know to stay away.

The weird thing is that it didn't sound at all necessary. Indeed, Philip Guy-Bromley (Father) needed a mute more than a mike: his triple-forssimo singing and pointlessly hyperactive acting were profoundly tedious. The poor Gretel, Irén Bartók, has a metallic edge to her soprano that was mercilessly exaggerated by the microphones, and the unfortunate Dew Fairy was lent all the charm of an old-fashioned metal alarm clock. The two singers one would like to hear again under normal circumstances were Fiona MacDonald, a warm-toned, pleasingly coltish Hänsel, and Yvonne Fontane, who showed real imagination as the Mother.

The staging is enormously pretty in its storybook way — painted flats, pigtales, not a machinegun, a gas oven or an abused child to be seen, cause for celebration in many quarters I daresay. Of actual direction there was precious little sign.

The conductor Jonathan Finney, assistant to the anonymous sound engineer, knew what he wanted and mostly got it from his willing orchestra. He also mostly wanted the right things, only occasionally surrendering to the score's Wagnerian profile and slowing the pace to a Parsifal-tread.

"A masterpiece of the first order": Richard Strauss's words were prominently printed in the programme. Indeed it is, which is why I found hearing it traduced in this way deeply depressing.

RODNEY MILNES

Give fun another shot

Pop stars are taking themselves too seriously. What we need in 1996 is some old-fashioned celluloid silliness

THE news that Madonna is to star in the title role in next year's big film, *Evita*, has caused shock and outrage among — well, if we're being honest, it's caused shock and outrage among those people who seem to be shocked and outraged about everything for a living, but no matter. Some people, anyway.

How — their argument runs — can a pop star ever hope to subsume her personality into a role, and actually act *Evita*, rather than just being Madonna in a new wig? Will she strip? Does *Evita* storm Argentine Cabinet meetings and do rude things with a bowl of fruit and a weasel? Doesn't this tarnish one of the classic musicals, and make things difficult for struggling, talented actresses the world over?

But people are being outraged for the wrong reasons. The real pity with Madonna's casting in *Evita* is that she's in *Evita*, rather than *Madonna*, which would make a far more interesting film, and have no naggingly familiar musical nonsense from Andrew Lloyd Webber into the bargain.

Think what a fantastic plot it is — small, slightly dumpy girl from New York fast-talks her way to stardom, marries big movie star, he becomes violent, she tries to save marriage, leaves him, becomes an even bigger star, finds no other man to suit her taste, advertises in a newspaper for a sperm-donor to become the father of her child and, presumably, brings up the child with the help of a close circle of gay male friends.

People may say "Well, hang on a minute: what was *In Bed With Madonna* if not a film about Madonna?" No, *In Bed...* was a documentary, and failed to be interesting because, oddly for Madonna, she was too modest: "Oh, just film me in black and white, hanging around a bit. Nothing fancy."

In Bed... should have had at least six set-pieces, with whole tenement blocks bursting into song, and a finale in which the US Government replaced the Statue of Liberty with a Statue of Madonna Grabbing Her Crotch. Instead we got Kevin Costner looking a bit embarrassed, and lots of praying.

Pop stars seem to be reluctant to take part in the celluloid self-canonisation that was commonplace until the late Eighties. Films such as *A Hard Day's Night*, *Abba the Movie*, *Stade In Flames*, *Don't Look Back*, *Rattle and Hum*, *Purple Rain*, and *Head* were all exercises in a self-

aggrandisement that was simultaneously self-effacing — what could be more modest than humbly acknowledging your fans' thirst for personal glimpses of their heroes in a variety of spangly costumes?

These days, however, it's all live videos and dull, hour-long interviews; what we need is a sense of the ridiculous in pop again. Sacks of money being spent on sending a band to Hawaii to mooch about a bit with 6,000 extras; car chase scenes in tour-vans; exploding drummers — you get the idea.

This is what I hope for in 1996: a return of excess and set-pieces and theatre in pop. Blur should film their career history along the lines of *Oliver!*, with Damon Albarn in the role of Oliver, the cockney orphan made good. Blur's spiritual uncle, Ray Davies, would make a splendid Fagin, and Albarn's girlfriend, Justine Frischmann of Elastica, would be a feisty if slightly posh Nancy. The band of raggedy orphans would pick the pockets of rich pop stars from days gone by, filching a chorus here, a solo there, and become hugely successful on the proceeds.

Pulp should remake *Saturday Night Fever*, reset in Sheffield, with Jarvis Cocker reprising John Travolta's role as a working-class boy who lives for the weekends, when he escapes to the nightclub to kung-fu kick and wiggle his fingers in a disturbing way to his heart's content.

And Oasis should look very closely at the possibilities in tying their past in with a 1996 version of *The Godfather*, with family feuds and punch-ups littering the way to winning the affections of the most powerful man in the business, played by Paul Weller, with the whole film retitled *The Modfather*.

Pop stars should not shy away from their duties of providing amusement as well as amazement. Their lifestyles are extreme and surreal — one song can take them from the gutter to the Groucho; their fans know more about them than their mums; and people they've never met would either die for them or punch them in the face, repeatedly, without ever having exchanged a word.

Celluloid can deal with these absurdities far better than an *Unplugged* session or a *Melody Maker* front cover — and, after all, these pop stars have already become myths; and myths have no place in the real world.



CAITLIN MORAN



Madonna: cast as Evita, but her own life would make a better film

Indulge in a Viennese whirl

New year means Vienna waltzes.
Daniel Rosenthal on the staging of Strauss concerts in Britain

BRITAIN'S orchestras are nearing a familiar point in their performance schedules. If it's new year it must be Vienna waltzes.

From December 31 to January 8, packed concert halls will echo to *The Blue Danube* and extracts from *Die Fledermaus* as the London Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and numerous others uphold a hugely popular tradition which began in Vienna's Musikverein more than 50 years ago.

John Georgiadis, the former LSO leader, has been as closely involved with that tradition as anyone in the music world. He is about to celebrate his 20th anniversary as conductor of the LSO's Viennese evenings, a landmark whose origin lies in his childhood encounter with Willi Boskovsky, the late Austrian maestro. Boskovsky cemented the fame of the Vienna Philharmonic New Year's Day concerts (established in 1941, and estimated to have a worldwide television audience of 1.2 billion) by conducting every one from 1955 to 1979.

"My parents met Boskovsky by chance when they were skiing in Austria in 1951 and invited him to get in touch if he was ever in London. Remarkably, he visited our house the following year," recalls Georgiadis, now principal conductor of the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra.

That was how, aged 13, I first became aware of the new year's concerts, and I came to love Boskovsky's recordings of the Strauss waltzes and polkas, which are still the best ever made."

In 1976, three years after leaving the LSO, Georgiadis decided it was time that English audiences had their own new year extravaganzas. He paid £3,000 to book the Albert Hall for January 1, 1977, and began to put together an ad hoc orchestra. But after he accepted an unexpected invitation to become the LSO's leader for the second time, "it seemed a good idea" to have them perform the new year show instead. The inaugural concert was a hit and the British waltz bandwagon was set rolling.

The LSO new year shows have become crazier over the years and are a complete joy to conduct. The players enter into the spirit of the music, singing their heads off and hurling polystyrene snowballs in Carl Ziehrer's *Snowballs Waltz*. There's a lot of British humour

which I don't think you could get away with in Vienna," Georgiadis says.

His favourite new year was in 1978, when the Albert Hall stalls were cleared for a Viennese ball and the audience waltzed the night away in gowns and tails.

"We played from nine in the evening to one in the morning, with the orchestra working in two-hour shifts. It was an amazing night and it's a tragedy that it's never been repeated. The Albert Hall wasn't really big enough for large-scale waltzing, though. I'd really love to book Earls Court for a huge new year ball."

That idea might tempt the classical promoter Raymond Gubbay, who has watched thousands of concert-goers become caught up in *The Champagne Polka* and *The Radezky March*. "We've never actually encouraged

people to dance in the aisles, but they certainly do a lot of swaying," he says. "If you stand at the back of the Festival Hall during a new year show you can see about 2,500 closet conductors moving in time to the music."

Gubbay began staging Strauss concerts in the 1970s, when he brought Boskovsky to England for a series of sell-out tours. This season he is staging galas by the Johann Strauss and London Concert orchestras, complete with dancers in Viennese costume.

Gubbay believes there is "definitely an air of nostalgia and escapism about these shows. People want to transpose themselves to 1870s Vienna, swirling around the ballroom of a gorgeous palace and forgetting the nasty side of life. We like to imagine that everything was better then, that everyone was an aristocrat."

"Waltzes and polkas are very uplifting. They were written for the public ballrooms of Vienna, where people went to lose themselves. Today, the waltz offers people relief from the problems of the modern world. In that sense, a Viennese gala is not all that different from a Broadway musical."

"One thing I've learnt in this business is that public taste never remains the same for too long. But, after 120-odd years, Viennese music still hasn't lost its charm. I think we'll be selling out new year Strauss concerts in 2015."

The last waltz, it seems, remains a long way off.

Swaggering, not staggering

THIN LIZZY

Wild One — The Very Best Of Thin Lizzy (Vertigo 528 113)

THE best rock'n'roll requires a certain swagger, and Thin Lizzy's frontman Phil Lynott, who died ten years ago next week, had it in spades. The band's trademark song, *The Boys Are Back In Town*, is a romping celebration of rough, masculine bonhomie and on his such as *Dancin' In The Moonlight* and *Don't Believe A Word*, Lynott combines a distinctively Irish romantic streak with a roughish sense of humour.

Where Lynott went astray on record, as in his short and over-stimulated life, was when he let his machismo get the better of him. "Hey you! Good-looking female, come here," he ad libs with an imperious leer during the fade of *Jailbreak*.

This uncomfortable mixture of the cool and the crass is typical of *Wild One*, a new compilation which collects together all of Thin Lizzy's best-known tracks together with a couple of Gary Moore hits, *Out In The Fields* and *Parisienne Walkways*. Although a perfectly serviceable introduction to the band, there are no new or previously unreleased recordings to tempt the converted, and despite clocking in at a generous 77 minutes, there is a rather slapdash feel to the package as a whole. The liner notes

NEW ALBUMS

include a brief summary of the group's career, but even basic information — such as which albums the tracks are selected from or which musicians are playing on different songs — is not supplied.

G. LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE
Coast To Coast Motel (OKeh/Epic EPC 480979)
ALTHOUGH nothing like as frantic as the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, G. Love & Special Sauce is another young trio with a similar mission: to bend a love of the blues into music that is new, exciting and not quite in tune.

It's a mighty long way from the Tam O Shanter bar in Boston, where G. Love & Special Sauce convened nearly three years ago, to the studios of New Orleans where they recorded their second album, *Coast To Coast Motel*, earlier this year. But drummer Jeffrey Clemens and bassist Jimmy Prescott handle the heavily syncopated rhythms of *Soda Pop* and *Leaving The City* as if to the manner born, while G. Love sings and plays guitar and harmonica on *Kiss And Tell* and *Small Fish* with the ramshackle fervour of a Deep Southern backwoodsman.

It's a glorious sound and when the loose, swinging horns of the Rebirth Brass

Band get in on the act during *Bye Bye Baby*, you can almost smell the Creole cooking wafting past on the pavements outside.

It makes a sad, if fitting epitaph, to one of the great eras of pop.

DAVID SINCLAIR

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Message To Love — The Isle Of Wight Festival 1970 (Essential/Castle Communications EDF CD 327; two discs)
THE Isle Of Wight Festival in 1970 was Britain's duty-free version of Woodstock. It turned out to be the last great gathering of the hippie clans before death (Hendrix, Joplin, Morrison) and Gary Glitter conspired to foil the quest for drug-induced peace on Earth and the perfect guitar solo.

As this previously unreleased soundtrack to the film of the event suggests, the hippie dream was by now unravelling fast. We hear that Tiny Tim will not even tune up his ukelele until he has been paid (yes, Tiny Tim!), while Joni Mitchell berates the crowd for "acting like tourists" before tart versions of *Big Yellow Taxi* and *Woodstock*. A fire breaks out on stage during a desultory performance by Jimi Hendrix, prompting the terrifyingly blasé announcement "Are there any firemen anywhere in the area that could help?"

Musically, it was obviously an awkward period for rock, a time when Ten Years After are applauded for playing a 12-minute track called (in part) *Extension On One Chord* and the big excitement is the debut live performance by Emerson Lake and Palmer. Old folkies such as Joan Baez, Donovan and Leonard Cohen rub shoulders somewhat uncomfortably with rock 'n' roll firebrands such as the Doors, the Who and Free, but it is the much-maligned Jethro Tull who pull out the best performance, a belting, tightly-

scripted version of *My Sunday Feeling* that puts the indulgent jamming of the other rock heavyweights to shame.

DAVID SINCLAIR

THE TIMES

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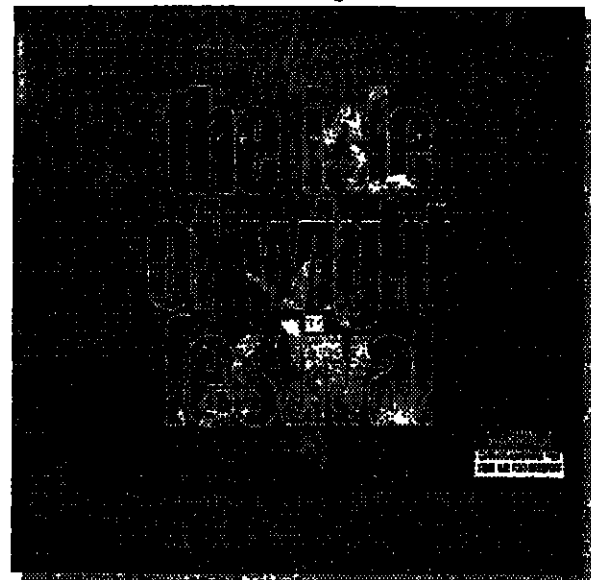
TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Robson & Jerome..... Robson & Jerome (RCA)
- 2 (What's The Story) Morning Glory?..... Oasis (Creation)
- 3 Made In Heaven..... Queen (Parlophone)
- 4 History..... Michael Jackson (Epic)
- 5 Different Class..... Pulp (Island)
- 6 Life..... Simply Red (eastwest)
- 7 Said And Done..... Boyzone (Polydory)
- 8 Something To Remember..... Madonna (Maverick)
- 9 The Colour Of My Love..... Celine Dion (Epic)
- 10 The Memory Of Trees..... Enya (WEA)

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Law Report December 29 1995 Court of Appeal

Specific performance granted to keep shop open

Co-Operative Insurance Society Ltd v Argyll Stores (Holding) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Millett

[Judgment December 21]

Although the practice of the courts was not to enforce a "keep open" covenant in a lease relating to retail premises, where the circumstances showed that damages were an inadequate remedy for breach of the covenant the court would grant an order for specific performance.

The Court of Appeal so held. Lord Justice Millett dissenting, in a reserved judgment when it allowed the appeal of the plaintiff, Co-Operative Insurance Society Ltd, against the judgment of Judge Muddocks, QC, sitting at Manchester as an additional judge of the Chancery Division, on July 31 giving summary judgment for the plaintiffs for damages to be assessed but refusing an order for specific performance against the defendants, Argyll Stores (Holding) Ltd, requiring them to keep open one of their Sainsbury's supermarkets for the remainder of the term of a lease, which was for 35 years from August 1979 and the current rent was £140,000 a year.

The court made an order for specific performance of the remainder of the lease, suspended until March 4, 1996, with liberty to the parties to apply. Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

The keep open covenant provided that the tenant "...keep the demised premises open for retail trade during the usual hours of business in the locality and the display windows properly dressed in a suitable manner, in keeping with a good class parade of shops..."

Mr Peter W. Smith, QC and Mr Paul Chaitry for the plaintiff; Mr Jonathan Gamm, QC and Mr Martin Seaward for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT said that the property comprised 30 per cent of the total letting area of the Hillsborough Shopping Centre, Sheffield; it was the anchor unit in the centre and played a key role.

It was open for trading until May 1995 but in its last trading year made a loss of £70,500. The defendants decided to sell it, together with 26 of their other supermarkets, well knowing of the keep open covenant.

The plaintiff landlord wrote asking the defendant to keep the supermarket open for trading until an assignee could be found, offering the prospect of a temporary rent concession. There was no response, the shop was stripped out on May 19 and would cost £1 million to reinstate.

In the application for summary judgment the plaintiff expressed willingness to consent to suspension for three months of any order made to allow a prospective assignee to Kwiksave to be concluded. Their anxiety was to prevent a prolonged closure as that would have a disturbing effect on the whole centre, would lead to fewer customers coming to the centre with resultant reduction in the level of rents at renewal.

The judge, citing *Braddon Towers Ltd v International Stores Ltd* [1987] 1 EGLR 209, said that damages rather than suspension or specific performance was usually the appropriate remedy for breach of a keep open covenant, that difficulty of supervision was a useful and sensible test to apply, that the court could not enforce such a requirement without in effect imposing some form of

slavery, and if it ordered the store to be re-opened it could not dictate the quality or scale of the business.

His Lordship said that Mr Justice Slade in the *Braddon Towers* case felicitously expressed the state of authority in 1979, which had not changed materially since. Counsel in that case said that the reason for the court's reluctance to grant an injunction was due to (i) the court's unwillingness to supervise the doing of continuous successive acts and (ii) to the fact that the terms of a mandatory injunction had to be clear and definite.

In the present case the terms of the covenant were quite intelligible to the defendant while carrying on business there. By reference to that standard and without descending to excessive detail the court would be well able to tell the defendant what was expected of it.

If the premises were to be run as a business, it could not be in the defendant's interest to run it half-heartedly or inefficiently, still less in a way that involved the plaintiff in continual recourse to the courts.

In *Shiloh Spinners v Harding* [1973] AC 691, 724 Lord Wilberforce stated the modern position: "Where it is necessary, and ... to move away from some nineteenth century authorities, is to reject as a reason against granting relief, the impossibility for the courts to supervise the doing of work."

The House of Lords was in effect adopting the view of Mr Justice Megarry in *C. H. Giles & Co Ltd v Morris* [1972] 1 WLR 307 that the so-called rule that contracts involving the continuous performance of services would not be specifically enforced was plainly not absolute and without exception.

Mr Justice Slade in *Braddon Towers* also referred to the forceful

judgment of Sir James Bacon, Vice-Chancellor, in *Greene v West Cheshire Railway Co* [1871] 13 Eq 44 in which specific performance was ordered of an agreement to construct and maintain a siding alongside a railway line upon land belonging to the plaintiffs, and the court rejected an argument that a court of equity should refrain from granting relief and leave it to the plaintiffs to recover damages at law.

Mr Justice Slade in *Braddon Towers*, while not doubting the settled and invariable practice of the court never to grant mandatory injunctions requiring persons to carry on business, had said (at pp23-24): "The rationale which lies behind the ... practice may perhaps need rethinking, at least in relation to those cases where it would be possible to define with sufficient certainty the obligations of the person enjoined to carry on a business."

The trial judge awarded the plaintiff in the present case damages; he thought that a vasty disproportionate amount of costs would be incurred if the shop was ordered to be re-opened; while acknowledging assessment of damages might be difficult, he said it was a task the court could readily carry out.

The judge's approach was conditioned by his belief in a settled practice. If such an exercise of discretion was always to be treated as unexceptionable, the court could never interfere to correct the practice.

Because the judge showed an unwarrantable reluctance to order specific performance, the court should intervene and exercise the discretion afresh, unfettered by shibboleths which would other-

wise continue to be unthinkingly applied.

In his Lordship's judgment, the present was a proper case to grant specific performance. If the court were to follow the usual practice, the result in practice would be that the common form of words of the covenant would hardly, if ever, be construed as meaning what they say.

If the parties wanted to contract that a failure to keep open would sound only in damages, they were quite at liberty to do so.

But where a responsible and substantial company as the defendant had undertaken to keep one of its shops open for a stipulated period, his Lordship did not see any reason why it should not be held to its bargain.

That in recessionary times might entail trading at a loss; but it by no means entailed it was obliged to do so for the duration of the lease: provision was made for assignment with the plaintiff landlord's consent, and that might prove the defendant with an escape.

The stripping out of the shop was the defendant's own idea and made at its peril; it had only itself or its legal advisers to blame for having done so precipitately.

The plaintiff would have considerable difficulty in trying to prove its loss; an award of damages would be unlikely to compensate it fully. And the losses of the other tenants of the centre would be irretrievable, except in so far as they might be reimbursed by reduced rents.

The defendant had acted with unmitigated commercial cynicism, preferring to resist a claim for damages rather than keep an unambiguous promise.

There was no reason why the court's willingness to grant specific

performance should not be affected by a sense of fair dealing.

Lord Justice Roch delivered a concurring judgment.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT, dissenting, and after reviewing the relevant authorities, said that there was a fundamental objection to an order of specific performance. If granted for any length of time or for an indefinite period it was oppressive.

To compel a defendant for an indefinite period to carry on a business which he considered was not viable, or which for his own commercial reasons he had decided to close down, was to expose him to potentially large and unquantifiable losses which might be out of all proportion to the loss which his breach of contract had caused to the plaintiff.

English law had adopted a pragmatic approach in resolving the dispute between the plaintiff and the defendant. The court was to grant an order of specific performance only if it was equitable and exceptional. Courts of equity had never enforced the performance of all contracts, whatever their nature.

The leading principle was usually said to be that equitable relief was not available where damages were an adequate remedy. In his Lordship's view, it would be more accurate to say that equitable relief would be granted where it was appropriate and not otherwise.

That was not the only test of appropriateness. It was always necessary to consider the consequences of granting such relief as well as that to the plaintiff of leaving him to his damages remedy.

Equitable remedies were instruments of justice they should be refused where they would be

potential instruments of oppression. In the present case, if the defendant was unable to find a purchaser willing to take on the lease, with 19 years to run, and the obligation of operating the premises as a supermarket, specific performance would have the effect of compelling it to continue to operate a supermarket on the site regardless of the financial consequences.

Even if a purchaser was found, he would in turn be amenable to a similar order if he should find that the business could not be carried on at a profit. Any order would, therefore, have an effective duration of 19 years.

Such orders did not issue simply because the defendant had deliberately committed a breach of a negative covenant, and it was an order to undo what had been done. They would be refused where the injury to the plaintiff was small and the grant of an injunction would cause disproportionate loss to the defendant.

That was not the present case. The injury to the plaintiff was substantial and difficult, although not impossible, to assess, but the potential loss to the defendant was enormous, unquantifiable and out of all proportion to any unconscionable loss the plaintiff might sustain.

Was a party to be driven into bankruptcy? The court could not know what would be the consequences of its own order. The courts had never before made such an order, and in his Lordship's opinion, the reluctance to do so was well founded.

If courts were willing to compel performance, his Lordship did not see how any tenant properly advised could safely enter into such a covenant.

Consistent practice, no less than

common error, made the law. The equitable jurisdiction should not be exercised in a manner which would defeat the commercial expectations of the parties at the time when they entered into their contractual obligations.

It was true that there was no evidence of the advice which the parties received when entering into the lease, but that did not detract from the dangers inherent in enforcing past transactions based on the known practice of the court.

Nor was it sufficient to say that the parties should have been advised that the grant of specific performance was discretionary, and that an order might be made if the court thought it was just.

His Lordship agreed that it would do the court no credit if it declined to make an order merely on the ground that it had become the practice not to do so. The court was entitled and bound to re-examine its practice to see whether it accorded with modern requirements.

Nevertheless, his Lordship remained firmly of the view that the court should not compel a party to carry on a business for an indefinite period regardless of the financial consequences of doing so.

The effect of such an order would be far more oppressive than that of an order to shut down a building. Withholding equitable relief did not, of course, mean that a keep open covenant could safely be ignored. The covenant would sound in damages; such damages could be substantial; and it was an order to undo what had been done. In appropriate cases they might not include an element of what were sometimes, erroneously, called restitutory damages.

Solicitors: Mr B. K. J. Lewis, Manchester; T. H. B. Bamford & Co, Hayes.

Revised directions for practice to be followed in Admiralty Court

Practice Direction (Admiralty Court: Practice)

Directions for the practice to be followed in the Admiralty Court of the Queen's Bench Division from January 1, 1996 were announced in a Practice Direction issued on December 21 by Mr Justice Clarke, Admiralty Judge.

MR JUSTICE CLARKE said:

1 General

(1) Reference to the "Registry" in the following directions was reference to the Admiralty and Commercial Registry.

(2) These directions should where applicable govern the practice to be followed in Admiralty matters in the Registry.

(3) These directions should come into force on January 1, 1996, and would supersede all previous Admiralty Registrars' Practice Notes or Directions.

2 Application of Masters' Practice Directions

In cases not covered by these directions the Masters' Practice Directions should, where applicable be followed with such modifications as the circumstances required, for example, the substitution of "Admiralty and Commercial Registry" for "Central Office" and "Action Department" and "Admiralty Registrar" for "Master" and "Practice Master".

3 Form of writs and acknowledgments of service: see Rules of the Supreme Court, Order 6, rule 1, Order 75, rule 3 and appendices A and B.

If it was desired to commence proceedings both in rem and in

personam separate writs must be issued: see *Practice Direction (Admiralty: Writ)* [1979] 1 WLR 426.

Where the defendants were described in the writ as "the owners of the ship X", any acknowledgment of service in addition to stating the description appearing in the writ should also state the full names of the persons acknowledging service and the nature of their ownership.

In the event of there being insufficient space on the acknowledgment of service form itself, such additional information should appear on a separate document to accompany and be lodged with the acknowledgment of service form.

4 Admiralty Court Practice

1 Practice in the Commercial Court had for some time been governed not only by Order 72 of the Rules of the Supreme Court but also by the *Guide to Commercial Court Practice* (see *The Supreme Court Practice* 1995 (vol 1), paras 72/A1 to 72/A30, 3rd supplement).

2 Many of the actions heard in the Admiralty Court raised similar issues to those heard in the Commercial Court. Many of those who regularly practised in the Admiralty Court also practised in the Commercial Court. Since 1987 there had been an Admiralty and Commercial Registry.

In those circumstances it was desirable that there should be as much harmonisation as possible between the practice of the two courts, provided that care was taken to ensure that the two courts remained independent so that each

might best serve the interest of those who wished to use it.

3 Those aims could best be served by improving the practice of the Admiralty Court in the following areas: the hearing of interlocutory applications; the Admiralty Judge, the listing of actions and the harmonisation of the general practice of the two courts where appropriate.

4 *Interlocutory applications*

4.1 With effect from June 8, 1993, most summonses and other interlocutory applications (including motions) which were to be heard by the Admiralty Judge and which were short enough to be heard on "summons days" would ordinarily be listed for hearing on Fridays. The Admiralty Registrar would continue to hear interlocutory applications as before.

5 *Trials*

5.1 With effect from June 8, 1993 trials would thus be heard on Mondays to Thursdays, and save in exceptional circumstances, would not be heard on Fridays.

5.2 Except where the Admiralty Judge otherwise directed, all actions would be heard by the Admiralty Judge.

However, the Admiralty and Commercial Registry would maintain a list of all matters to be heard in the Admiralty and Commercial Courts in order to ensure that the judicial resources of both courts were used to best effect.

All such listing would be under the direction of the Admiralty and Commercial Court listing officer.

5.3 That would enable the Admiralty Judge to hear actions in the Commercial Court and it would

also enable judges of the Commercial Court to hear actions in the Admiralty Court where the facts of the particular case made that course appropriate.

5.4 It was stressed that the purpose of the change was to make both courts operate as efficiently as possible. Care would be taken to ensure that an Admiralty action which involved questions of navigation or other particular matters of an essentially Admiralty nature would be heard by the Admiralty Judge or, where necessary, by a judge nominated by the Admiralty Judge who had experience of such questions or matters.

6 *Practice*

6.1 With effect from June 8, 1993, the *Guide to Commercial Court Practice* would govern the practice in the Admiralty Court so far as applications to and hearings before the Admiralty Judge were concerned, save where the provisions of that guide could apply only to commercial actions and save that applications in the Admiralty Court would continue to be heard by the Admiralty Judge or the Admiralty Registrar in accordance with the Rules of the Supreme Court.

6.2 Thus the following sections of the *Guide to Commercial Court Practice* would apply to proceedings in the Admiralty Court before the Admiralty Judge:

I. Ex parte applications; IV Service out of the jurisdiction; V *Mareva* and *Anton Piller* injunctions; VI Summonses inter partes; VII Arbitration matters; VIII Security for costs; IX Pleadings; X Amendment of pleadings; XI Discovery and interrogatories; XII The summons for directions (except for paras 12.1 and 12.2); XIII Preliminary issues; XIV Exchange of evidence; expert witnesses; XV Documents; XVII Preparation for long trial (save that the reference in para 17.2 to a single judge should be a reference to the Admiralty Judge unless he otherwise directed); XVIII Pre-trial check-list; XIX The trial.

6.3 The reason that some parts of the *Guide to Commercial Court Practice* had been omitted was that they did not seem to be appropriate to an Admiralty action having regard to the express terms of

Order 75 and to the fact that Order 72 did not apply to an Admiralty action.

However, suggestions from the Admiralty Court Committee (or indeed from any other user of the Admiralty Court) as to how the practice of the court could be improved in that or any other respect would be welcome.

6.4 That Direction replaced previous Admiralty Practice Directions, direction 4 (*Practice Direction (Admiralty Directions)* [1979] 1 WLR 1149).

7 *Conclusion*

7.1 That Practice Direction was issued with the consent of Lord Taylor, of Gossford, Lord Chief Justice, and with the approval of Mr Justice Saville as judge in charge of the Commercial Court.

7.2 The changes in the practice set out above would come into effect from June 8, 1993, subject to any adjustments which might be necessary as a result of arrangements or orders already made at the date of that Practice Direction.

(Issued May 10, 1993: see *Practice Direction (Admiralty Court: Practice)* [1993] 1 WLR 900).

Discharge of cargo under arrest from ships not under arrest from ships under arrest: see Order 75, rule 12.

(1) Where a ship was not under arrest but cargo on board her was, and those interested in the ship wished to discharge the cargo which was under arrest, they might, without intervening in the action, request the Marshal to take the appropriate steps. If the Marshal considered the request reasonable and if the applicant gave an undertaking in writing satisfactory to the Marshal to pay on demand the fees of the Marshal and all expenses to be incurred by him or on his behalf in taking the desired steps, the Marshal would apply to the court under Order 75, rule 12.

(2) Where those interested were unable or unwilling to arrange for such an undertaking to be given they might intervene in the action in which the cargo was under arrest and apply by summons for the order for discharge of the cargo and for directions as to the fees and expenses of the Marshal and about the discharge and storage of the cargo pursuant to such order.

(3) Where a ship was under arrest but cargo on board her was not and those interested in cargo wished to secure its discharge, one or other of the procedures outlined above might be followed.

6 Use of postal facilities in the Registry: see Order 1, rule 10.

(1) Queen's Bench Masters Practice Direction, direction 3 ("Use of postal facilities in Queen's Bench Division") would be followed in the Registry subject to the following and any other necessary modifications.

(2) Applications together with the requisite documents must be sealed on the day of filing.

The Admiralty and Commercial Registry, Room E200, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL.

(3) The classes of business for which the use of postal facilities was permitted in the Queen's Bench Division were extended to cover the filing and lodging in the Registry of the following classes of documents: (1) Pleadings for caveats; (2) Ball bonds and affidavits under Order 75, rule 16; (3) Preliminary acts; (4) Counter-notice to summons for directions; (5) Notices to call for documents under Order 35; (6) Agreements between solicitors under Order 75, rule 35; (7) Claims in references; (8) Lists of undisputed items, and documents in support of claims, in reference.

(4) Documents sent by post for filing or lodging must be accompanied by two copies of a list of the documents sent and an envelope properly addressed to the sender.

(5) On receipt of the documents in the Registry the proper officer would, if the circumstances were such that had the documents been presented personally they would have been filed or lodged, cause them to be filed or lodged and would, by post, notify the sender that that had been done. If the documents would not have been accepted if presented personally the proper officer would not file or lodge them but would retain them in the Registry for collection by the sender and would, by post, so inform the sender.

(6) When documents received through the post were filed or lodged by the proper officer they would be sealed and entered as

filed or lodged on the date on which they were received in the Registry.

(7) It would not be possible for the Registry to enter into any correspondence or telephonic communication concerning the refusal to accept for filing or lodging any document sent by post.

(8) Para 20 of Queen's Bench Masters Directions, direction 3 ("Applications by post for special appointments before Masters") would not apply to applications for the appointment of a date for a reference.

7 *Right to file documents in the Registry in Admiralty proceedings*

When an affidavit was filed in the Registry in Admiralty proceedings, any exhibits to it would be returned to the party lodging them when no longer required by the court. In the case of motions and summonses those exhibits would normally be returned at the end of the hearing.

8 *Compromise or settlement by person under disability etc*

(1) On a summons or originating summons for approval of the settlement or compromise of a claim or for the acceptance of money paid into court, in an action in which any party was a person under a disability, the court, if any proposed payments should be left blank.

(2) No affidavit would usually be required on the hearing of the summons or originating summons.

(3) At least two days before the date fixed for the hearing the parties must lodge in the Registry the originals or copies of all documents to which they intended to refer at the hearing.

9 *References* — form of schedule to Registrar's decision: see Order 75, rules 41 and 42.

Where a list of agreed items had been filed under Order 75, rule 41(6) or any items had been agreed at the hearing, the Registrar would not in the schedule to his decision list the agreed items separately but would set out the total of the amounts agreed in respect of them, unless any party otherwise requested at the hearing.

10 Applications relating to foreign currency funds in court including proceeds of sale of a

ship or the property sold by the Marshal.

(1) When proceeds of a sale were paid into court by the Marshal or payment in was made by a party to an action and such payment was in a foreign currency, the funds would not be placed to an interest bearing account or otherwise dealt with without the direction of the court.

(2) An application to place foreign currency to an interest bearing account, unless made at the same time as an application for sale, or other prior application, might be made by summons. Notice of the placement of foreign currency to an interest bearing account should be given to all parties interested in the fund by the party at whose instance the foreign currency was invested.

(3) Any interested party who objected to the mode of investment of foreign currency paid into court might apply by summons to the Admiralty Registrar for directions.

(4) Several types of deposit were usually available and applications to place the funds to any interest bearing account or otherwise should specify the type of deposit required.

Advice as to those matters could not be given by the Registry staff.

11 *Taxation of costs*

Supreme Court Taxing Office

At the request of the Admiralty Registrar, all costs in Admiralty matters would be taxed in the Supreme Court Taxing Office. The procedure for the commencement of proceedings for costs as set out in *The Supreme Court Practice* 1995 paras 62/301-62/308.

A summons to review a taxation would follow the Queen's Bench Division procedure in accordance with the Practice Direction of Lord Justice Goff, *Chief Justice* dated May 10, 1994 (*Practice Direction (Taxation: Review)* [1994] 1 WLR 856).

With the agreement of the Admiralty Registrar the Practice Direction of the Admiralty Registrar dated November 1, 1973 (*Practice Direction (Admiralty: Taxation Review)* [1973] 1 WLR 1424) was cancelled.

Practice Direction (Admiralty: Taxation of Costs) [1996] 1 WLR 1310 related to the procedure to be followed on review of taxation under Order 62, rule 35.

It had been justly conceded by the respondent that extreme circumstances could exist where section 14 could operate because of environmental circumstances such as where the ventilation system in a tunnel had been totally removed so that people inside might expire because of the lack of air or where a road across a beach was affected by smoke from a health fire. Those circumstances were wholly different from the present case.

It might be that as people became more and more aware new sections would be enacted to deal with pollution but as it presently stood section 14 did not extend to prohibition or restriction on ordinary traffic for the purpose of removing or reducing danger to the public from air pollution caused by such traffic.

It required only a few moments' attention to see that any interpretation in favour of the applicant would produce absurd results, for example higher levels of pollution might be caused by the diverted traffic on roads other than Trafalgar Road. To have temporary restrictions on roads in a city like London was absurd and would result in chaos.

Solicitors: Leigh Day & Co; Mr C. Roberts, Woolwich.

Claimant did not report facts not known to her

Franklin v Chief Adjudication Officer

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas

[Judgment December 13]

An income support claimant who declared that she had correctly reported any facts which could affect the amount of any payment and that I am entitled to the above sum.

The Department of Social Security had discovered that after the claimant's initial application the interest rate on one of her mortgages had been reduced. Since that date she had been paid more than she had been entitled to. The appeal tribunal had believed her when she told them that she had not known of the decrease in the mortgage interest rate.

Section 71(1) of the 1992 Act provided that if any person misrepresented or failed to disclose any material fact and in consequence a payment was made, the Secretary of State was entitled to recover any amount which would not have been paid but for the misrepresentation or failure to disclose.

It was common ground that misrepresentation could be fraudulent or innocent. Non-disclosure was different. In *R v Medical Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Hubble* [1958] 2 QB 228 it was held that there could not be non-disclosure of something a person did not know.

However, in the claimant's case, the Secretary of State relied not on non-disclosure but on misrepresentation, on the ground that the terms of the declaration she had signed contained a representation that the beneficiary had

correctly reported any facts which could affect the amount of any payment. If relevant facts were not reported there had been a misrepresentation, never mind that it was innocent, and the Secretary of State had the right to reclaim the overpayment.

In answer, the claimant argued that the representation made was that the beneficiary had reported facts known to her. The word "reported" in itself conveyed the notion of passing on information which one had.

The claimant relied on dicta of Lord Justice Dillon and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith in *Jones v Chief Adjudication Officer* [1994] 1 WLR 625.

Lord Justice Dillon had there said (at p72) that such a declaration was a representation "that there were no facts known to the claimant at the time he signed which could affect the amount of his payment but which he had not reported".

Having regard to section 71(1), it seemed to his Lordship legitimate to construe the declaration in the way it had been construed in *Jones*.

Accordingly, the overpayment was not recoverable because the claimant had failed to report facts which she had not known.

Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Mr David Thomas, Solicitor, Department of Social Security.

Pollution no reason to close road

Regina v Greenwich London Borough Council, Ex parte Williams and Others

Before Mr Justice Macpherson

[Judgment December 19]

There was no power under section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1964 for a local authority to close a road temporarily to traffic in order to reduce the danger to

Wachter waiting in wings to take lead role

Ginola left in rival's shadow

Cantona delivers French lesson at Old Trafford

An intriguing subplot to Manchester United's FA Cup tie against Newcastle United at Old Trafford on Wednesday was the *affaire de France*. Somehow, with much of the French nation tuned in via television, the individual performances of Eric Cantona and David Ginola were symptomatic of the differences between the sides. Cantona, captain of Manchester United for the first time, was at the heart of so much of his team's superiority, their greater desire and determination. Ginola, showing little of the hypnotic, controlled arrogance of his touch, was peripheral.

The French were bemused. Their own debate, after the national team had dropped both Anglophiles and found unity to qualify for the European championship finals, had begun to centre on the belief that the national coach, Aimé Jacquet, would recall either of them, it would probably be Ginola. France, the argument goes, need a winger's skills. They have other players who can dictate the rhythm and flow of a game.

Have they really? They like many people in Britain, are astonished at the turn of events. Cantona began this year in such disgrace after his wild kick at a spectator on January 25 that few people felt he should be given the right to atone, much less to finish the year as the captain of one of the world's most illustrious clubs.

Not only did he complete that circle, he was also utterly responsible and unselfish in the role. Three days previously, against Leeds United at Elland Road, he had shed blood for United and, on Wednesday, he wore a white surgical dressing on the head wound almost like a badge of courage. There were few histrionics, for, since his return, this is not the Cantona of extremes. There was not the brooding malevolence with which he began the year, nor quite the explosiveness in front of goal or the full mellifluous flow of his passing.

Instead, there was leadership. Two moments spring to mind. In the first half, he



Rob Hughes looks back at the impact of two talented imports on the championship campaign

appeared momentarily joined at the hip to Robert Lee, the midfielder whom Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, had described as the most effective footballer in England. Their tango lasted but a brief second, after which Cantona spun away with the ball and Lee staggered towards the ground. He looked discouraged, disinclined to try to recapture the ball and eyed Cantona with as much awe as any of the 732 children who last summer had been Cantona's pupils during his community service.

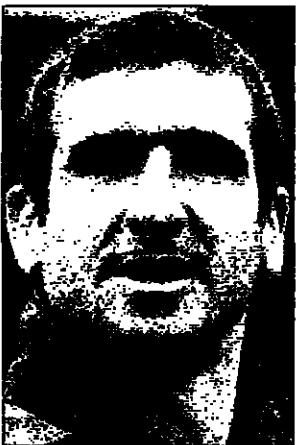
Later, when stamina was beginning to show the men from the boys, Cantona galloped at full stretch into the Newcastle penalty area. Howey was with him, stride for stride, trying to discourage the Frenchman from his chosen path. Cantona took his eye off the ball and glanced right and left, looking for Andy Cole. Players such as Cantona can do this because they are so sure of their technique that, unlike so many British players, they know they will control the ball at a touch. He did, and swept it into Cole's path, justifying the claim of Manchester United's manager, Alex Ferguson, that the chemistry between the menace of Cole and the alertness of Cantona could yet justify all expectations.

If Cantona genuinely can

channel his thoughts and desires into creative play, then surely he possesses a dimension beyond Ginola? Newcastle's Frenchman had just held Tyneside in raptures with his skills in the last home match against Nottingham Forest and, though one performance should not make a reputation — any more than one match will win or lose the championship — then Ginola will be central to Keegan's own need to revamp Newcastle's tactics.

The loss for two months of the right winger, Keith Gillespie, might now oblige Newcastle to continue with the experiment attempted in the first half last Saturday. Then, they used Philippe Albert as one of three centre backs, freeing the full backs to create pace down the flanks and using Ginola's ability to run at defenders, bemusing them three at a time, in a central role. Without Gillespie and having sold Scott Sellars, Keegan might now need this tactical variation away to West Ham United tomorrow and at home to Arsenal next Tuesday.

For the moment, the Newcastle manager has lost a battle, not the war. He will reflect, however, that his players lacked character at Old Trafford, that they were not, as he said, desperate enough to win the match. However, Keegan might conclude that he himself was beaten in the matter that is his forte — motivation.



Cantona: leadership



Bland, left, of the North East, struggles in an effort to thwart the progress of Danaher, of the South West

Carter puts Midlands on higher ground

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

A COMBINATION of individual craft supported by efficient teamwork enabled the Midlands to establish a strong position on the first day of the divisional hockey tournament at Clifton College, Bristol, yesterday.

With two wins at under-17 level, they play the West today, whose teamwork was equally impressive. The North West also recorded a brace of victories but the Midlands, having scored fewer goals, Three players — Carter, Leask and

Langlands, with two goals each — played telling roles in the Midlands' 7-1 victory over the South East. The Midlands had built a 4-1 lead by half-time and survived a barrage of shots from short corners in the second half before adding three more goals in a late flurry.

The West snatched the lead against the South West with a goal in the fourth minute by Secombe but Wilkinson levelled the score with a well-taken goal two minutes later. Yanaie restored the West's lead in the 27th minute and Secombe made the match safe with a late effort from a short corner.

Carter, of the Midlands, was among the goals again when he scored two against the East, who led through Orinbo before sliding to a 4-1 defeat. The West's final match of the day against the South East was called off because of a frozen pitch.

In the under-15 competition, Matthew Taylor scored a hat-trick from open play for the Midlands in a 4-1 victory over the South East.

RESULTS: Under-17: South West 3 North East 1; North West 1 East 0; Midlands 7 South East 1; West 3 South West 1; East 1 Midlands 4; North East 1 North West 3; Under-15: South East 0 West 1; South West 3 North East 0; East 0 Midlands 0; North West 1 East 1; Midlands 4 South East 1; North East 1 North West 0; South West 1 West 1.

IN BRIEF

Scots retain Phillips for Welsh encounter

PETER PHILLIPS, the Queen's grandson, retains his place in the Scottish Schools rugby union side to play the Welsh Schools at Bridgend on January 5. Phillips, from Gordonstoun, is named at No 7 — though the Scots play their flankers left and right — instead of Grant Howieson, of Huchessons, who broke a thumb during the 18-12 defeat by France last Friday.

Hamish Calder, of George Watson's, the nephew of Finlay Calder, the former British Isles captain, will bring greater bulk to the blind-side position, while a reshuffle in the back division brings in Dougal Affleck, of Berwickshire HS, at centre. Tom Lightowler moves to full back and Stuart Connell to the wing.

Caviare show

Cycling: Carl Sturgeon, racing again after a two-year break, had his second victory in three days yesterday, dominating the Matlock CC cyclo-cross in temperatures that dropped to -4C for the start of the 10.2-mile event on Matlock Moor, 900 feet above sea level. Sturgeon, from Leicester, broke clear halfway through the first of the seven laps and was never caught before he finished in 58min 10sec. He used a mountain bike for better control on the icy descents.

Wilander out

Tennis: Mats Wilander, the former world No 1, has withdrawn from the Sydney international tournament next month because of a back injury. Wilander, 31, from Sweden, has also withdrawn from the Hopman Cup mixed team event that starts in Perth on Sunday. The Sydney White City tournament, formerly known as the New South Wales Open, the main warm-up event for the Australian Open, starts on January 8.

Laitinen soars

Ski jumping: Mika Laitinen, of Finland, won a large hill World Cup event in Oberhof, Germany, yesterday, landing the longest and third-longest jumps of the day to easily beat Ari-Pekka Nikkila, his compatriot. Laitinen had a jump of 121 metres on his first attempt and then added a 126.5-metre leap, five metres better than anybody else on the day, for a total of 241.5 points. Nikkila totalled 229.4 and Jens Weissflog, of Germany, was third with 224.9.

Ebdon tumbles

Snooker: Peter Ebdon, who beat Ken Doherty 8-0 in his opening match, slumped to a 6-2 defeat yesterday as Ronnie O'Sullivan picked up his first points of the European Snooker League campaign. O'Sullivan lost the first frame, but took the next six.

Globetrotting

Basketball: Orlando Antigua, 22, a Puerto Rican formerly with the University of Pittsburgh, has joined the Harlem Globetrotters, becoming the first non-black in the team since Bob Karstens played with the squad in 1942-43.

Barbara Collins

Gymnastics: Barbara Collins, a British Olympian, has died of breast cancer at the age of 42 after fighting the illness for two years. Collins won the All England schoolgirls title in 1971 before becoming the national champion a year later. She competed at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

Woking stand to gain League entry

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE finishing touches are being put to the work at Woking Football Club that has, during the past two months, turned Kingfield into a ground fit for the Football League.

Phil Ledger, the chairman of the Vauxhall Conference club, said: "The things that the Football League have asked to be done are more or less complete, so we're confident that everything will be ready by their deadline of December 31."

"They have said they will come down next week and see. They want seats for 1,000 and we've now got 2,500; the safety barriers have been put in, there's more room for the press — all that kind of thing. Ledger, who completed his rise from club mascot, in 1938, to club chairman last year, has no doubt what has made the transformation possible. "The council are our sponsors," he said. "We're the envy of many clubs who don't get much help from their councils. Woking Borough Council have been absolutely marvellous with their support. It's been second to none."

Woking are second in the Conference, seven points behind Macclesfield Town, the champions, with three matches in hand. Should they win promotion to the League, Ledger says that the council's co-operation with the club will be extended. "We have drawn up a second-stage plan which would involve knocking down the old stand," he said.

The new 2,000-seat stand behind one goal that is the centrepiece of the development will be opened for Woking's Surrey Senior Cup tie against Epsom and Ewell on Tuesday, January 9. Mindful of Woking's not so distant Italian League past, Ledger said: "People ask, why Epsom and Ewell? Why not? They're a good Surrey football club. If it's opened on that day so be it. We do have plans to bring down a big club to do an opening ceremony."

The stand will be called the Leslie Gosden Stand, after the 92-year-old club president, a retired builder. "He's been with Woking for 67 years," Ledger said. "He's put an enormous amount into the club, both financially and workwise." Not the least of Gosden's achievements was his part in buying the ground for the club after the Second World War, for £6,000.

Woking have put admission prices up from £5 to £6 to help them to cover the costs, but there will be no charge on top of that to sit in the new stand. If lucky, supporters may get two matches for the price of one. "They tell me you get a good view of the Westfield (the Combined Counties League club) ground from the top," Ledger said.

All the best-laid plans at a new ground can go wrong, as Hednesford Town discovered when their match against Kettering Town was abandoned because of floodlight failure on Boxing Day.

John Baldwin, the manager and joint owner, said: "We spent quite a lot of money on getting a frost protection cover. Some frost got underneath it — it was so severe but the ground staff were there at eight in the morning, working very hard. After all that and with us 2-1 in front, then the floodlights go out."

Despite the efforts of an electrician, the club could not get a rogue pylon to work again fully. "The referee decided that it would be too dangerous," Baldwin said. "When the match is played, with the league's permission, we plan to offer supporters substantially reduced prices."

Being at the new Keys Stadium played its part. "When you've been at a place for 30 or 40 years, you know where everything is," Baldwin said. "Anything could go wrong and somebody would know how to put it right. We've got to learn to do that all over again." So, Woking were warned.

Jones faces fine and suspension

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

VINNIE JONES, the Wimbledon captain, has been charged with bringing the game into disrepute after making disparaging remarks in a national newspaper article, about foreign players. If found guilty by the Football Association, he faces the possibility of a heavy fine and suspension.

Jones's latest brush with the authorities follows his sending-off — the eleventh of an incident-packed career — in the 2-1 victory over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Boxing Day. Jones had already been cautioned for a challenge on Dan Petrescu when he lunged at Ruud Gullit from behind in the 53rd minute.

Dermot Gallagher, the referee, had an easy decision to make and yet Jones pleaded his innocence, accusing Gullit of "diving" to earn a free kick. Yesterday, in the *Daily Mirror*, Jones appeared to drift even further away from reality in a 44-paragraph diatribe, which was directed at the FA Cup Premier League's ever-growing band of imported players.

Jones was quoted as likening Gullit to the two pot-bellied pigs he owns, and added: "But they don't squeal as much as him." He also said: "There is a new noise in football — it is called the Foreign Squeal. The Beautiful Game? What's beautiful about lying in mud and acting like a cockroach on its back? How does it feel, Ruud?"

The FA, predictably, was not amused. Steve Double, a spokesman, said: "All decent fans will acknowledge that overseas players have been a great benefit to the British game and generated a huge amount of interest."

At least Wimbledon have shown a modicum of sense by deciding not to pursue an appeal against the sending-off. Liverpool are to give free transfers to Mark Walters, Jan Molby and Paul Stewart.

West criticises showpiece season

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ANOTHER part of the polish applied by the Rugby Football League (RFL) to its centenary season was smudged yesterday when Graeme West, the Wigan coach, criticised the governing body for trying to pack too much into the campaign.

West stopped short of embracing the view expressed by the Halifax coach, Steve Simms, that the season should be terminated, but his words offered little warmth to RFL officials shivering at the thought of the widespread damage being inflicted on a congested fixture list by the inclement weather.

The season is due to end on January 21 to allow sufficient time to prepare for the commencement of the Super League in March.

West, in the apparently inevitable process of guiding Wigan to their seventh successive Stones Championship title, said: "I have every sympathy with Steve's point of

view, with fixtures piling up on top of an already-demanding schedule, and an ever-increasing injury list, but I don't believe it would serve any purpose to call off the rest of the season.

"It would be unfair if some clubs were allowed to finish early while others play on until the trophies are collected. I suppose I could feel different if we had won the championship already, but we haven't and, besides the league, there are still competitions out there to win, like the Regal Trophy and the Challenge Cup.

"All the problems that the game is experiencing at the moment should have been considered at the planning stage and I certainly believe that it was a mistake to attempt so much before the start of Super League."

He said he sympathised with smaller clubs that did not have the depth of playing resources to overcome the ravages of injuries. "We've got

our injury problems, too, and while we may have had more players left on whom to call, there are not many left in the bank at the moment, I can assure you."

Two of those, the prop, Kelvin Skerrett, and the wing, Martin Offiah, have appointments with specialists. Skerrett



West injury worries

AMERICAN FOOTBALL	
TUCSON, Arizona: Copper Bowl: Texas Tech 55 Air Force 41.	
BASKETBALL	
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): LA Clippers 116 Charlotte 107; Milwaukee 99 Minnesota 99 (OT); Washington 115 Golden State 94; Phoenix 105 Philadelphia 90; Portland 135 Boston 102; Seattle 99 Denver 85.	
CRICKET	
CASTLE CLIP (third day of four): Paarl: Boland 231 and 121-6; Western Province 425 (H. Gibbs 132, H. D. Acheson 84, J. Coenraad 57, D. Rundle 50, M. Erasmus 5-87); East London: Free State 158 and 167 (S. Potgieter 142, Border 201 (P. Strydom 58, V. Verster 4-66) and 55-0 Border beat Free State by ten wickets.	
DARTS	
PURPLET, Essex: Varners Pools world championship: Group one: P. Taylor (Eng) bt C. Luczarski (Eng) 3-0; Group two: S. Davies (US) bt K. Spink (Eng) 3-0; Group three: L. Butler (US) bt H. Hargreave (Eng) 3-2; Group four: B. Anderson (Eng) bt G. Verner (US) 3-1; Group five: A. Warriner (Eng) bt S. Brown (US) 3-0.	
FOOTBALL	
Wednesday's late results: FA CUP PREMIERSHIP: Manchester United 2 Newcastle United 0, Bolton 0 Leeds 2.	
ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Bognor Regis v Tooting and Merton Second division: Warr v Chesham 2 Postponed: Melf Police v Hampton.	
FOR THE RECORD	
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol 2 Oxford United 4 Postponed: Chelsea v Southampton; Crystal Palace v Bristol City; Portsmouth v Ipswich; Queens Park Rangers v Charlton; Swindon v Norwich.	
UNILET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Hoveford YMCA v Mole Oak; Langney Sports v Stannock.	
HOCKEY	
DUNDEE: Indoor tournament: Inghis Minniech Hill 1st time 3; Torbane Wanderers 11, Dala Travellers 6; Touche Ross: Gordonians 3, Old Loughboroughs 6.	
FIXTURES	
FOOTBALL: BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Dundalk v Derry (7.45); Schools matches: FA Premier League under-18 trophy: Essex v Buckinghamshire (Expendon 11.0); Hampshire v Bedfordshire (Buckland Road, Southampton, 2.0).	
OTHER SPORT: BASKETBALL: Basketball League: Warrington v Newcastle (8.0). DARTS: WDC championship (Crus. Tavern, Purfleet). HOCKEY: Midlands Hill indoor tournament (Duck McQuiggan SC, Dundee, 10.15pm). Under-17, under-15 divisional tournament (Bristol). Women's under-21, territorial tournament (Aston SC, Rotherham, 9.30). East v North, South v Midlands (11.30). West v East (1.30). North v Midlands (3.30). Women's under-18 and under-16 territorial tournaments (Concord SC, Sheffield, 10.0). SNOOKER: Dr Martens European League: S. Davies (Eng) bt R. O'Sullivan (Eng) 5-3; Frame 1: Davies (Eng) 60-67 65-1 64-47 15-36 0-76 13-42 86-4 82-61.	

SNOW REPORTS	
Depth (cm)	Conditions
Run to resort	Weather (5pm)
Last snow	
AUSTRIA: Kitzbühel 30 70 good powder art sun -8 27/12 (Superb skiing in cold winter sunshine, some lift queues)	
Mayrhofen 0 40 good varied closed sun -6 27/12 (Most pistes in good shape: very cold, -15C at 2,000m)	
Oberurgel 70 100 good varied icy sun -10 27/12 (Very cold but sunny with excellent piste skiing)	
St Anton 15 190 good powder icy sun -10 27/12 (Pistes well groomed and sking well: resort very busy)	
Schladming 40 50 good powder good sun -5 27/12 (Good skiing on well prepared pistes: all lifts open)	
Sell 20 80 good varied closed sun -11 27/12 (Excellent skiing on all open runs: 80/90 lifts open)	
FRANCE: Alpe d'Huez 30 120 fair varied icy snow -3 28/12 (Best skiing on top runs, pistes very icy low down)	
Chamonix 15 170 fair varied closed fine -1 27/12 (Good skiing on open runs: plenty of moguls and hard snow)	
Megève 10 30 worn none closed cloud -2 27/12 (Still only a handful of runs open, more snow needed)	
Val d'Isère 65 130 good powder fair snow -4 28/12 (Good snow on most runs but avalanche danger persisting)	
Val Thorens 45 95 good varied fair snow -3 28/12 (Excellent snow on mid and upper runs, some rocks low down)	
ITALY: Cervinia 40 250 good powder good fine -4 27/12 (Fresh snow and low temperatures giving great skiing)	
SWITZERLAND: Mürren 30 120 good powder good fine -7 27/12 (Good skiing everywhere with powder at all altitudes)	
Wengen 50 60 good powder fair fair -4 27/12 (Virtually whole ski area open, great conditions)	

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes, U - upper, art - artificial

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David Miller looks back on a memorable 1995 and considers the year in prospect

Olympians emerge with Georgia on their minds

Knock, knock. Who's there? Shouaa. Shouaa who? You shouaa will be hearing more of me. The thrill of sport has always been the emergence of new, sometimes unexpected champions. Guada Shouaa, Syria's first world champion athlete when she won the heptathlon in Gothenburg this year, is symptomatic of a slowly changing sporting stage, just as is Costantino Rocca.

The developing world of Asia and Africa is increasingly going to challenge the dominance by the European-American, Anglo-Saxon axis in the past century. And I do not just mean questionable Chinese swimmers, seemingly jointless Kenyan runners from high in the Rift Valley, or footballers from Cameroon or Nigeria.

Sport in the 21st century is likely to expand, like commerce, around the Pacific Rim. Philippine boxers, Korean footballers and others will help to prevent international sport becoming no more than a branch of television entertainment, which is the danger of what is becoming a satellite television "closed shop". The survival of network coverage, as maintained by the Olympic Games and recently demanded domestically by Lord Howell, is vital.

There is a tendency to analyse sport as being part of some social syndrome: a decline in patriotism, say, should England lose a few cricket matches, or the United States get beaten at ice hockey. In fact, sport is a series of events, intensely dramatised by the result being uncertain, between individuals or teams of varying technique and temperament, which pleases the confuses the equation.

Dozens of interpretations were heaped upon the rugby union World Cup when the fascination was primarily the result. Australia, the holders, were harpooned by Rob Andrew's late dropped goal; England, the pretenders, received the rhino treatment from Lomu and New Zealand; and white South Africa, inspired by a black president, in a Springbok shirt, proved New Zealand were human after all.

The future of rugby is more clouded by the so-called television bonanza than any sport, the constitution of World Cup teams even threatened. Of more instant concern, at home, is whether Jack Rowell, the England manager, can at last produce the open game so long promised. England's performance in the forthcoming championship — that private northern hemisphere club of five nations that will ultimately become as redundant as the British football championship if rugby is to mean anything globally — will be his sternest test yet.

Sport can be ghoulish in its



The gloves are off for Tyson, left, and Bruno, who are preparing to meet in March. The bout provides the British boxer with a last chance to make an indelible impression on the sport

verdicts, in the occasional suddenness of outcome. It has been said it is war by another name. It is also an alternative to execution, for which thousands used to gather. I do not mean to be macabre in drawing this association with boxing, given the possibility of death in the ring, yet boxing's appeal is the absolute demonstration of man's courage, the theatrical creation of fortune.

Few events in 1996 will generate such speculation as the meeting in March of Mike Tyson and Frank Bruno. My boyhood was punctuated by the vain attempts of home boxers such as Bruce Woodcock and Don Cockle to emulate Bob Fitzsimmons, the last genuine British champion of the world. None has come as close as Tommy Farr, in 1937, one of only three boxers to take Joe Louis the distance as challenger. The part-titles won by Lennox Lewis and Bruno are imitations of the real thing.

Tyson was the last unified champion. After failures against James Smith, Tim Witherspoon and Tyson, this is the last chance for the amiable Bruno to be remembered more for boxing than for pantomime.

There was drama and hon-

our in 1995 elsewhere besides Cape Town and Johannesburg. Peter Blake and his *Black Magic* Kiwi crew won the America's Cup, defeating the manipulative Dennis Conner, never mind his switching of boats and rules. Blake promised a fair competition in 1997 and may well thereby have rescued the oldest of international events.

Seldom has golf seen such a year as at the Masters, the Open and the Ryder Cup. Ben Crenshaw helped to bear his mentor, Harvey Penick, to his grave, then won at Augusta for the second time with inimitable resolve. John Daly became

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There was drama and hon-

SPORTS LETTERS

Traditional style driven out

From Mr Simon Palmer

Sir, What has happened to the laws of football? As an amateur player for some 30 years and a qualified referee (lapsed) I am dismayed to see the game reduced to the level of non-physical combat, overseen by over-zealous officials.

The paying public are as confused as the players. Foul play is penalised quite properly by free kicks and spot kicks; deliberate violence, foul and abusive language and retaliation are quite correctly dealt with by yellow and red cards.

However, the indiscriminate brandishing of these coloured cards for even the most innocuous contact is much to be deplored as time and again we witness physical play interpreted by officials waving their cards, reducing the entertainment value to the paying customers and changing the tempo of the game.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON PALMER,
5 Courtside, NS.

English football is physical; it is a part of the national character where aggression and skill combine to provide a fine competitive sport enjoyed by millions for over 100 years. There seems to be a deliberate attempt by the officials to stamp out the aggression so necessary, in my opinion, to the spirit of the game.

The continental style of elaborate passing and possession is anathema to the English game. In trying to emulate that style of play we become confused and tentative and all too frequently come off second best.

If we are not allowed to follow our traditional style of play by the prohibition of physical contact, supported by officious, misguided referees, then our national game is in peril.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON PALMER,
5 Courtside, NS.

Prime principles

From Mr Roy Walton
Sir, Michael Henderson, aesthete, social philosopher, litterateur, descends on the deformities of English football (December 18).

Granted the Aston Villa v Coventry game was messy, ill-affording the absence of Yorke after 34 minutes, Richardson's departure also contributed to the disjointed nature of the play.

As for the crosses which Johnson and Draper provided for the second and third goals, had they been merely "decent", Milosevic would have missed them. Villa were not at their best but they were good enough to win emphatically.

Their manager will probably not infer from the margin

of victory that Villa are a side of quality throughout. Neither should Michael Henderson deduce, from his personal perception of one football match, prime principles of sport in general, human behaviour and life as a whole.

Yours faithfully,
ROY WALTON,
14 Shelley Road,
Stratford-upon-Avon,
Warwickshire.

From Mr Anthony Radevsky
Sir, I expect Terry Venables hopes that Michael Henderson (Sporting Resolutions, December 28) learns that nouns are declined and verbs are conjugated.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY RADEVSKY,
5 Bell Yard, WC2.

Options for rugby clubs

From Mr Denis Ryan

Sir, Nobody has yet suggested that senior rugby union clubs consider the televising of every single league match, with only one played on a Saturday and the others on four different evenings.

The advantages include: 1. Welcome extra income of perhaps £500,000 per annum to each club to help to solve the player-payment problem. 2. Improved analysis of opposition strengths and weaknesses by coaches and players who could video and scrutinise every detail of strategy and tactics.

3. Increased viewing opportunities for rugby enthusiasts, who can still support their own club by attendance on match days if they so wish.

Drawbacks include: 1. The inability of some supporters to attend midweek games, particularly away. 2. The tedious, boring nature of some games which could be a turn-off for non-partisan viewers.

3. The difficulty of changing the habit of a lifetime which may be required as the price of progress.

The example of professional football has shown that such changes are possible, but it remains to be seen whether the rugby union world is ready for it, even if the television companies are willing to take the risk.

As I approach my seventies, the prospect of continuing my own interest and support in this way has a certain comforting appeal that could brighten long winter evenings.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS RYAN,
13 Otho Court,
Augustus Close,
Brenford, Middlesex.

Interests of coaches must also be protected

From Mr Jake Downey

Sir, The National Coaching Foundation (NCF), which is stretching a point in its claims that it and the National Association of Sports Coaches (NASC) have jointly published a code of ethics and conduct and that they may discipline coaches for gross misconduct (report, December 7).

First, there is only one organisation, the NCF, which is an educational charity largely funded by the Sports Council as its "coaching arm". The NASC does not exist. It is the name given to the membership services section of the NCF and is used to attract coaches into joining the NCF in the belief that they are actually joining an association of coaches.

Once they are on board, the NCF collects the subscriptions and has a captive membership to whom it can sell its services and increase its income. NASC has no legal status, no formal constitution or articles of association, no autonomy or

independence, no authority and powers. It is a charade and the coaches who join it are being misled. Sadly the Sports Council, which has been fully informed of the situation, continues to provide funding to the NCF to run the NASC.

Second, the NCF has no authority to discipline coaches. Such authority could be invested in an independent coaches association if one legally existed. Unfortunately there is no such association since the demise of the British Institute of Sports Coaches, which was supposed to merge with the NCF in 1993 but was taken over and then effectively destroyed by the NCF.

It is unlikely that there will be an independent association of coaches in the near future as such a body would depend on some funding from the Sports Council which it has refused to provide.

For the present the interests and welfare of sports participants are protected by the many governing bodies of

sport who have implemented the code of ethics and conduct published by the late British Institute of Sports Coaches which provides necessary ethical guidelines for coaches. It is important, however, that any code of ethics and conduct also protects the interests of coaches. In this respect, perhaps, the Sports Council would join me in advising the NCF to practice what it is apparently preaching.

The NCF could start by disclosing the full truth about NASC to coaches in the leaflets and articles it publishes. This would remove the confusion and allow coaches to make an informed decision about whether or not they want to pay substantial membership fees to join the NCF.

Yours faithfully,
JAKE DOWNEY (International badminton coach),
9 Wellfield Avenue,
Muswell Hill, N10.

True Blues

From Mr S. C. Coles

Sir, In an age of "pyjama" kits for merchandising purposes, what a pleasure to see the Oxford side in the recent Varsity rugby match playing in identical colours to those worn by the sides I played in forty years ago. Cambridge made some sort of deviation on their left sleeves!

Perhaps Oxford will continue to exemplify the best of the "old" game in the new age.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN COLES
(Oxford Blue 1954, 1956, 1957),
82 Rotherfield Way,
Caversham,
Reading, Berkshire.

Decline and rise

From Mr Nick Milner-Gulland

Sir, You reported (December 18) on the improved quality of Oxbridge cricketers' exam results. Could this be related to the decline in the quality of their cricket?

Yours faithfully,
NICK MILNER-GULLAND,
Cumnor House,
Danehill,
Nr Haywards Heath,
Sussex.

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Saturday departure supplement (Dover/Newhaven) 10-day	£15
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Friday departure supplement (from Southampton) 10-day	£15
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Underdogs spread delight by reaching college football's showpiece event

Rose Bowl ready to witness purple reign

Oliver Holt on the undergraduates facing a stern examination of their sporting talents

At the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel on the Pacific coast south of the vast urban sprawl of Los Angeles, the members of a young American football team awoke from a dream this week as they prepared for the match of their lives. Against all the odds and to the delight of the country, the underdogs from unheralded Northwestern University in their distinctive purple kits have made it to the most famous undergraduate contest in the United States, the Rose Bowl. It is as if a small college crew had barged its way into the Boat Race.

After years of underachievement, season after season of finishing with a record of no wins and 11 defeats, the team, also known as the Wildcats, came out fighting this year. In the space of three months they beat the giants of college football. First, Notre Dame in September, then Michigan in October and finally Penn State.

Now they will meet the University of Southern California (USC), the best of the Pacific division, on New Year's Day in Pasadena in an event that is half pageant, half sporting occasion, and try to put the icing on the cake. They will be watched by a crowd of 100,000 and 200 million television viewers across the world.

Back in Evanston, Illinois, a suburb on the northwestern edge of Chicago that is home to the university of just 7,500 undergraduates, (almost exactly half the number at USC) they can hardly believe it.

College football is big in the United States, a different world to university sport in this country. It plays to partisan sell-out crowds, its stars are the Steve Youngs and Emmitt Smiths of the future, and to the students of each institution, the team is a source of collective pride.

Northwestern have done it without compromising their academic standards, too. This is not a situation like the one portrayed in the film *Blue Chips* where a struggling college basketball coach drafts in a brilliant player from the ghetto — played by Shaquille O'Neal — and attempts to hide his lack of intelligence. At Northwestern, who have only appeared at the Rose Bowl once before, in 1949, there are 12 engineers on the team and one in the theatre course. Exam results are improving, not slipping.

And when the talk of Cinderella and fairy-stories is over, as with everything in the United States there is a commercial bonus in there, too. Already there has been a 23 per cent rise in early applications from potential students for Northwestern and calls have been particularly heavy on the Mondays after weekend games. When the university needed \$90 million (about £38 million) for the unromantic job of renovating the engineering building, it came in double quick.



Barnett, the head coach of Northwestern, talks tactics with one of his players. Photograph: Jonathan Daniel/Allsport

The enthusiasm is easy to understand. Northwestern finished the season with ten wins and just one loss. It won the league known as the Big Ten, the competition for all the biggest and best college teams in the Midwest. On the day when it needed Michigan to score an unlikely win over Ohio State to give them a place in the Rose Bowl,

every store on Central Street, Evanston, apart from the Christian Science Reading Room, had a team pennant in the window. Michigan came through and the townsfolk flung roses into the air.

Much of the credit for the turnaround has been given to the Wildcats' coach, Gary Barnett. When Barnett, now in his fourth

year in the post, promised to "take the Purple to Pasadena" when he took over, most people laughed. Now other colleges and even National Football League teams are queuing up to try to recruit him.

"I guess what I have tried to explain to everyone else who has asked," Barnett said in Newport Beach, "is that our programme and

our players are operating on heart-beat. They all have a great deal of respect for each other.

"But there was a plan and part of the plan included creating some continuity. It was a matter of selling the team to get people to come here and then getting everybody to buy into what it would take to accomplish our goals.

"It has been a bit like a circus throughout the last third of the season because it looked as though there was a possibility we might make it to the Rose Bowl. There has been a lot of hoopla. There is speculation about me, too, I know. But one of the things that has gotten us where we are is that we have been able to keep things in perspective. We are about to play in the Rose Bowl and I do not need my mind cluttered with other thoughts right now.

"I am still learning about my team. They beat Notre Dame and they beat Michigan and Penn State and ever since then, they have faced a challenge that none of them has faced before. Normally, this type of thing has to evolve with time but we have just skipped first and second grades and gone right on with it.

"This is a special group of guys. There are things you don't have to teach them, things they know how to handle. And right now, they don't want to taste losing again."

The university president, Henry Bienen, also deserves a pat on the back. His first big fund-raising campaign produced \$20 million to update the crumbling football stadium and build an indoor practice

"This is a special group of guys. There are things you don't have to teach them, things they know how to handle"

facility for the athletic department. Both helped Barnett to attract players of the calibre of Darnell Autry, a running back, the kind of elite recruit who would not have returned phone calls from Northwestern in previous years.

"The success of the team has been a binding experience," Bienen said. "It creates a good feeling on campus. It hooks people to an institution and there aren't so many things that do that today."

"Our alumni should be proud when we hire a great professor of chemistry. But you're not going to get on the front page of the *Chicago Tribune* for that. That's what happened after we beat Notre Dame."

So New Year's Day beckons. There are 18 other college bowls up for grabs including the prestigious Fiesta Bowl between the unbeaten Nebraska and Florida.

But while the big boys such as Penn State, Ohio State and Michigan contest also-ran trophies, their significance mirrored in the ordinariness of names such as Citrus Bowl and Outback Bowl, Northwestern will take their place in the sun in Pasadena, yet another chance for the nation to lose itself in the elusive idea of the American Dream.

□ The Rose Bowl can be seen live on the NBC Super Channel starting at 11pm on January 1.

Changing weather threatens Sayonara's record bid

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

LARRY ELLISON brought his American maxi yacht, *Sayonara*, to Australia with one thought in mind — to break the 20-year-old Sydney-to-Hobart race record. It was a meticulously planned operation, with no expense spared, but yesterday, with 138 nautical miles to go to the finish line in Tasmania, Ellison's chances of success were firmly in the lap of the gods. Unpredictable weather was threatening to make or break his attempt.

Leading the Australian maxi, *Brindabella*, by 23 nautical miles and with the rest of the 93-strong fleet strung out behind, *Sayonara* was concentrating on the target of 2 days 14hr 36min 50sec set by *Kialoa*, skippered by Jim Kilroy, in 1975. At the same stage of the record-setting race, *Kialoa* was just two nautical miles ahead of *Sayonara's* 1995 position. The yacht would have to finish by 3.36am local time today to win the £120,000 on offer for a new record.

For a while, as increasing winds improved *Sayonara's* position overnight, it seemed Ellison's chances of celebrating with his crew, which includes his friend, Rupert Murdoch, the chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, were encouraging. Then, however, the wind eased and the doubts returned, despite optimistic noises from the organisers that *Sayonara* still has the record in sight.

"It could be difficult. The weather is all over the place," a race official said. "There has been a forecast of stronger westerly winds coming through early this evening and that might give her a kick along."

Sayonara, the 78ft Bruce Farr-designed sloop, may need it. There is still some difficult sailing ahead in the 630-mile event, with a constant threat of savage squalls around Storm Bay in the approaches to Hobart. There is also a tricky run up the Derwent River between high hills to the finish, with tired crews having to watch for strong wind gusts that the locals call "bullets".

Race organisers issued a whale alert to the fleet yesterday after a pod of up to 40 animals was sighted off the Tasmanian coast near to the course of the race. Already five yachts have hit either whales, sunfish or other objects in the run that started from Sydney harbour on Tuesday. Two of those yachts pulled out with tattered and hulled damage, five have withdrawn from the race altogether.

London to take strong tour party

The London and Middlesex Rifle Association, which starts an Australasia tour on January 3, has such a wide membership that its tour includes leading international shots from the Great Britain, England, Scotland and Channel Islands teams (Our Rifle Shooting Correspondent writes).

The team captain is David Cole (Great Britain, Warwickshire and RAF) with George Cann (Great Britain and Devon) as vice-captain and Bob Aitken, general secretary of the Scottish Sports Association, as adjutant. Two other leading Scottish internationals in the team are Colin McEachern and Jim Scobie.

The team's wide range of experience is demonstrated by the inclusion of Cliff Mallett, who has shot for Jersey for 40 years as well as competing in three Commonwealth Games and captaining the Channel Islands in the world championship last year.

The team also includes Martin Townsend, who was in the Great Britain team that won the world title in New Zealand last year.

TOUR PARTY: D. Cole (captain), G. Cann (vice-captain), R. Aitken (adjutant), B. Aitken, R. Birt, W. Bradshaw, E. Brice, R. Coffin, P. Coley, G. Jarvis, N. Hendrie, C. Mallett, D. McEachern, C. Paul, J. Scobie, M. Townsend, S. Clark, R. Stafford, A. Piche.

Fruitful journey's end assured for Europe's Welsh pioneers



GERALD DAVIES
Rugby Commentary

Today, Cardiff travel to Dublin to play Leinster and Swansea fly to Toulouse before taking the field in the semi-finals of the Heineken Cup tomorrow. Encapsulated in that sentence, which could not have been written three months ago, lies yet another sign of rugby's shifting times — so many swift changes in so brief a span.

The familiar domestic arrangement of fixtures that was sustainable in an amateur era could not conceivably continue once the game became professional. Now, finance needs to be generated; standards need to rise. The search for both is necessary if rugby is to prosper as a professional sport. Europe beckoned.

In its first year, competitive European club rugby has only the merest pretensions to international sophistication, but the five participating countries were brave enough to take the first hesitant step to inaugurate a tournament with European dimensions. It was necessary.

France, Ireland, Italy, Romania and Wales felt that to delay would have paved the way for a renegade operation to take the lead. England and Scotland hesitated, but will be included next season. Their rugby, too, will need the revenue; their players need the experience of a different level of competition and to play across several borders.

The attitude of the English has been curious. They give the impression that they accept only grudgingly the need for a competition beyond their domestic fixtures.

This is something that clubs in Wales have been aware of for several seasons. When

those clubs feared that they were becoming too insular — a condition that encourages a narrow perspective as well as the in-breeding of tactics — and began floating ideas about expanding their playing horizons to promote an Anglo-Welsh league and possibly more, a spokesman for the English clubs would have none of it. The problem of parochialism, that was perceived to be an infection peculiar to Welsh rugby, was none of theirs; all was thought to be well with England's

wonder. England can boast the most comprehensive league system in the world, but its clubs still have as much need as anyone else of a wider, international, canvas. They need European competition; they have now missed a season.

The playing standard of English clubs is not, nor has it been, as uniformly high as some care to think. No club has managed to dominate so successfully the domestic season in Wales, say, or France as have Bath in England. They have been Courage league champions five out of eight times and have won the knockout cup nine times in 11 years. If this says much in Bath's favour, it hints just as

strongly of the consistent failure of others. In contrast, Toulouse, who have won the championship more than any other club in France, have done so only 12 times since 1912.

Whatever weaknesses have been inherent among English clubs — as in Wales, those clubs that regularly attain high standards are numbered on the fingers of one hand — they could be camouflaged by the success of the national team. Tactically, however, the national team was found wanting in the World Cup. Any reassessment, therefore, might have been better achieved within the European context.

It is certainly forcing Wales to do so. The Heineken Cup insists that the clubs lift their sights beyond their backyard. It also changes the pace of the treadmill on which clubs meet each other regularly and know, more or less, what to expect. Furthermore, the tournament is whetting the appetite, not only of those clubs that are participating, but also of those that are not and that can only look on enviously.

It has, for instance, given greater urgency to Llanelli's season. Gareth Jenkins, their coach, states clearly that Europe is where his and his

club's ambitions lie. They are playing with speed and panache. So are Neath. The chase for the top places in Wales's Heineken League has taken on a new meaning. Prestige not merely within Wales is the key, but within Europe. That is the stage on which they now wish to perform.

The World Cup may provide a global inspiration, but the Heineken Cup tournament, because of the immediacy of its impact on clubs, could well have a more profound influence on the players and the lifting of standards within Europe.

It is encouraging that Benetton Treviso restricted Toulouse, the French champions, to 18-9 after being three times in the lead. This seems to confirm the continuing development of the game in Italy.

So far, there has been little television coverage. Matches have been shown live in the Welsh language on S4C with an additional hour-long edited highlights programme in English on HTV. The percentage of viewers has encouragingly been on a par with networked sports programmes at this time. Interest, inevitably, has grown steadily with the progress of the Welsh clubs. Crowds at the games in Wales have averaged 4,000.

Not the least of the Welsh clubs' problems this weekend is that, if they are to reach the final, they must travel overseas. This is a big test for Cardiff and Swansea, who play well in their home surroundings of the Arms Park and St Helens. Travel is something to which they now must grow accustomed.

Clubs can kindle optimism for Ireland on wider front

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

COULD it be a happy new year for Ireland, a nation whose rugby players have hardly glimpsed a dawn, never mind a false one, over the last decade? The five nations' championship is three weeks away, but the last weekend of the old year may offer cause for optimism.

Leinster, playing on the familiar turf of Lansdowne Road, appear in the semi-finals of the inaugural Heineken Cup tomorrow, while at Sunbury, London Irish will put themselves in line for promotion to the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship if they can beat their old rivals, London Scottish.

Successes on either front would not assure Ireland of better times to come, but they would be distinctly useful building blocks. That Cardiff stand in the way of Leinster's progress may give pause for thought, but the Welshmen, who have pressed so hard for a European competition, will respect the Irish province's unbeaten record in ten matches this season.

Last weekend, they were crowned provincial champions for the first time in 12 years and yesterday were the first of the European contenders to name their team, which shows only two changes from that which squeezed past Pontypridd 23-22 earlier this month. Claran Clarke comes in at full back and Steve Jameson at lock forward, replacing Conor O'Shea and Brian Rigney respectively.

Victory would pose something of a problem for Leinster, however. Ireland leave on Sunday for a week-long train-

ing camp in Atlanta, culminating in a full international against the United States on January 6, and would require their Leinster players. Those not needed for the international would be released for the Heineken Cup final on January 7, but the likes of Neil Francis, Paul Wallace, Kurt McQuillin and Niall Woods would be unavailable.

Leinster are counting no chickens and will resolve, in consultation with the Ireland management, what may be done as and when they have played Cardiff. Should they reach the final, the one player they would hope to have available is Alain Rolland, the Blackrock College scrum half, who has been playing the best rugby of his career this season.



Rolland: key player

and has overtaken Niall Hogan, at least in provincial terms.

O'Shea is free to play at full back for London Irish tomorrow, should the weather allow their game to go ahead. The

club management is keen it should, not only for the crowd they are certain to attract but because London Scottish look vulnerable after their unexpected defeat by Nottingham in the Pilkington Cup last Saturday.

Victory would put Irish level on league points but ahead on points difference, second to the runaway leaders of the division, Northampton. Their only doubt is at No 8, where Aaron Verling is likely to get the nod because Barry Walsh has flu.

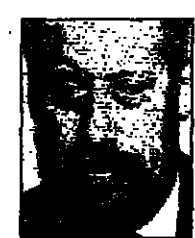
Clive Woodward, their coach, is confident about his team's potential. "In my opinion we are three or four players short of where Northampton are at the moment," he said. "I'm building a back line which, I believe, will be brilliant, without any additions. What we lack are some big-hitters in the forwards but London Irish is, potentially, one of the most powerful clubs in the country, as well-equipped as most in playing, coaching and financial terms."

Competition among the backs will be improved by the addition, since the University match, of two key Oxford University personnel, Tyrone Howe and David Humphreys. Both registered for London Irish early in the season and are immediately available. More than just the club selectors would be interested in their progress.

LEINSTER: A. Clarke (Tenniscross College), P. Gavin (Old Bedford), V. Cunningham (St Mary's College), K. McQuillin (Reigate Rangers), N. Woods (Blackrock College), A. Rolland (Blackrock College), H. Hurley (Old Wesley), S. Byrne (Blackrock College), P. Wallace (Blackrock College), C. Finn (Old Wesley), S. Jameson (St Mary's College), N. Francis (Old Bedford), S. Rigney (Lansdowne), J. Costello (St Mary's College).

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FREUD
ON FRIDAY

Ben Paton won the Gemini BC post-Christmas cyclo-cross at Footscray outdoor activity centre... which is a substantial area of greenery, at present whitely, off the London-Folkestone Road not far from Sidcup.

Always well-attended, the Gemini event, and contested since its inception in 1969 by the French, who send over two coaches filled with professional Frenchmen making the sort of festive grunting noises you associate with truffle hounds. They bring wives, not necessarily their own, and children, and fill the luggage compartments of the vehicles with cross-bikes and mountain-bikes and spare wheels; also baguettes from the boulangeries of the Pas-de-Calais, which is their region.

Paton, wearing a red jersey with darkish spots, led from the start, headed the other 80 riders for the regulation one hour of undulating circuits and kept in front on the final lap, to the quiet satisfaction of the home crowd and the disappointment of the visitors, who had come equipped with the wherewithal of celebration: motor horns mounted on sticks, louder and less inhibited voices than have our supporters and the odd container filled with more serious stuff than coffee.

I had telephoned the organisers early on Wednesday morning to inquire whether the event would survive the weather. A foolish question: cyclo-cross is about providing difficult terrain for racing. Had there not been snow and slush, frozen paths and trees cascading snow when you least expect, the contest would have been the poorer.

What is wholly admirable about cyclo-cross is that the suits who determined the composition of events decreed that before every open race there would be competitions for juveniles and juniors. This encourages the young to participate, feeds talent into the sport and provides an enthusiastic clique to cheer on the stars. Would that this was adopted by other disciplines.

And so it came to pass that at 11.30am, a man with a whistle and a loud voice summoned the under-12s to approach the starting line for a race of about one mile down the path to the rail railings, around some trees and then



Snow and mud produce suitably challenging conditions for Gemini BC's post-Christmas cyclo-cross. Photographs: Marc Aspland

off to the right and back up the hill to the finish, which is the same line as the start. Were there any questions?

I wanted to ask about the French boy who had quietly taken his place in pole position. He looked 15, wore a yellow jersey containing the names of sponsors: his bike had 21 gears, his face wore the expression of "been there, done that".

"Is it that he is truly under 12 years, old?" I asked the French *chef d'équipe*, explaining that my question concerned only the fair play.

I received a Gallic shrug: what do you want me to do? Ask him, I suggested.

"When is your birthday?" he asked the lad.

April 3.

There you are, said the man, April 3.

Next to him on a junior mountain-bike sat Kelly Garaghan, who was nine, whom nobody would expect to be other than nine.

"Do you get anything if you win?" she asked the organiser. Yes, he said: there are prizes. She put on her helmet and concentrated on prizes. Three smallish Eng-

lish boys, Ben Porzio, Matt and Daniel, appeared to be our best hopes, and at the end of the line stood Emma wearing a helmet but without a bike. Emma is eight. "Dad's locked the bike in the boot of his car," she explained, and a search party was dispatched

to find Dad. Her brother, John, bike-less also, borrowed a bike from a juvenile rider; volunteers came with spanners to lower the saddle but it never looked as if this would be a dangerous combination.

In the fullness of time Emma and her bike were

united, the course re-explained, the whistle blown for the off. Remy shot into the lead, Ben raced along behind, Matt and Daniel and Kelly followed. Emma was riding like someone expecting the rest of the field to fall, steered a steady and sedate path some 200 yards behind the others.

Half a mile down the path we saw Remy turn, still in the lead, and the French cheered: a small, squat man with the name of his butcher inscribed on the back of his anorak sounded his motor horn. Some of us muttered "come on Ben, push hard Matt, hoorah for Kelly".

Approaching the finish Remy was in the lead, looking over both shoulders for non-existent danger. Ben came second, then Matt, Daniel, Kelly and Emma. What of John? The judge decided he had finished without necessarily having completed the course. It was a close-run thing between DNF and seventh. Last year the judge had posted someone PITC... which stands for Popped Into The Café.

Time for the presentation:

A delighted Kelly Garaghan brandishes her rosette after taking part in the event for the under-12s

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Tomorrow is really today

Print the Legend: Visions of the City, Radio 4 FM, 10.00am. Utopia or dystopia? The city, as reflected in films, can be heaven on earth or hell on earth. It is the city of the future that has most productively fired film-makers' imaginations, from *Things to Come* to *Blade Runner*. Humanity would reach its full potential, through machines and socialism, said *Things to Come*. *Blade Runner* looked bleakly at a menacing city, soaked in acid rain. *Planet of the Apes* turned out to be Planet Earth, destroyed by nuclear bombs. *Visions of the City* ends Christopher Frayling's stimulating series, which has argued persuasively that, whether set in the present or future, it is the concerns of today that the best films have explored.

111 Eat My Hat, Radio 5 Live, 11.05am.

I am no sports enthusiast, but I know a good sports programme when I hear one. Desmond Lynam's *111 Eat My Hat* ends its short run today, and I am genuinely sorry. With pace and humour, it has charted the progress of sports coverage on radio from the word go. The final edition concentrates on *Sports Report*, the pioneering news and results programme that began life in 1948 and is still flourishing. Two names will forever be associated with it — its founder and editor for many years, Angus MacKay, and Eamonn Andrews, its long-time presenter. Thanks to *111 Eat My Hat* I now know the name and time of *Sports Report's* bustling *11* Turn, *11* Turn, *11* Turn signature tune. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00pm Claire Sturgess
6.00pm Simon Mayo 12.00pm Nicky Campbell
3.00pm Dave Pearce 7.00pm Pete Tong's
Essential Selection of 95 10.00pm John
Peel Festival 50 — Part 1, 1.00pm Radio
1 Rap Show

RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 6.00pm Roger Royle 6.15
Pause for Thought 7.30pm Wogan 9.30
Ken Bruce 11.30pm Jimmy Young 2.00pm
Debbie Thewer 5.30pm Stewart 6.05
John Dunn 7.00pm Howard Kael Presents
Playhouse (24/5) 7.30pm Friday Night
is Music Night 8.45pm Whiskey Galore! Read
by Stanley Baxter 9.00pm Listen to the
Band 10.00pm John Anderson's Hogmanay
12.00pm Jazz Notes 1.00pm Charles Nove
1.30pm Pause for Thought 3.00pm Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00pm The Other Honours List (1) 6.05
Spotlight 6.50pm The Breakfast Pro-
gramme 8.35pm The Magazine, incl. at
10.10pm Chari Reaction and Euronews
11.05pm 111 Eat My Hat, See Choice 11.25
Pioneers and Pioneers (3/3) 12.00pm
Midday with Mair, incl. at 12.34pm
Moneycheck and at 1.15pm Entertainment
News 2.05pm Ruzsee on Five, incl. at 3.45
Entertainment News 4.00pm National
incl. at 5.45pm Entertainment News 7.00pm
News Extra 7.35pm Parkinson on Sport
8.35pm Off with 9.05pm American Graffiti
9.35pm Stop Press 10.05pm Entertainment
Superhighway 11.05pm Ages of Being
11.35pm Spaced Out My Hat, See Choice 11.55
Hours, with Richard Evans 2.05pm Up All
Night

TALK RADIO

6.00pm Sandy Wier 7.00pm Simon Bates
10.00pm Jonathan King 12.00pm Tommy
Boyd 2.00pm Anna Rieburn 4.00pm Scott
Chisholm and Lowri Turner 7.00pm Sean
Boiger 8.00pm Mox 10.00pm James
White 1.00pm 6.00pm Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00pm On Air, with Penny Goss.
Britten (Variations on a Theme
of Frank Bridge); Mozart
(Symphony No. 41 in C)
Jupiter; Chabrier (Souvenir
de Munich); Varhall
(Symphony in C); 8.04
Schubert (Overture, Die
Zauberharfe); Montsalvage
(Cinco Canciones negras)
9.00pm Morning Collection with
Paul Gambaccini. Music by
Stravinsky and Pergolesi
10.00pm Musical Encounters, with
Piers Burton-Page. Holst
(Bring us in good air), Purcell
(Incidental music, Sir Anthony
Love); Vaughan Williams
(Toccata for Marzale); Morris
(String Quartet in A); Tippett
(Dance, Clarion Air); 10.40
Strauss (Four Songs); Bach
(Brandenburg Concerto No. 6
in B flat); 11.10pm Stanford
(Magnificat in B flat)
Beethoven (Sonata in C
minor); Holst, arr. Imogen
Holst (Wassail Song)
12.00pm Composer of the Week.
Saint-Saëns (1)
1.00pm St David's Hall Recital.
Britten Quartet performs John
Rickard (String Quartet No. 3);
Revel (String Quartet in F)
2.00pm In Dulci Jubilo, BBC Singers
under Stephen Cleobury and the
Wallace Collection under
John Wallace perform
settings by Praetorius and
Scheidt
3.00pm Mining the Archive. Music
by Roberto Gerhard
4.30pm Turns of the Century. In the
last of the series, Russell
Davies recalls the British
comedians featured over the
past eight months
4.30pm Songs of Old Britain,
performed by the Solari

RADIO 4

5.55pm Shipping (LW) 6.00pm
6.05pm Weather 6.10pm Fanning
Today 6.25pm Prayer for the Day
6.30pm Today, incl. 6.30, 7.00,
7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 8.55pm
7.55pm Weather 7.55, 8.25
Sport 7.45pm Thought for the
Day
8.40pm A Christmas Carol, by
Charles Dickens. Richard
Wilson reads the first part
8.55pm Weather
9.00pm 10.00, 11.00, 12.00pm Test
Match Special (LW only).
South Africa v England in the
fourth Test
9.00pm News (FM only) 9.05pm Desert
Island Discs (FM only). The
cassette is Paula Clark (1)
9.45pm Letters from Ireland (FM
only). Father John
McCullough, of Co Tyrone,
reflects on the "plain people
of Ireland" (4/5)
10.00pm 10.30pm News; Print the
Legend (FM only). See
Choice
10.00pm An Act of Worship (LW only)
10.15pm Children's BBC Radio 4: A
Ghost for Christmas. Anna
Kaveney reads Across the
Fields by Susan Price (4/4)
10.30pm Walters' Festive Follies.
John Walters spends New
Year's Eve in Florida (5/5)
NB: The following are on FM only
until 4pm.
11.00pm News; Today, Grovel and
Ingratinate. Diana Eden
reports on synchroscopy
11.30pm At Bertram's Hotel, by
Agatha Christie (5/5)
12.00pm News; Trumpton Riots. Fred
Harris recalls children's
television programmes in the
1970s
12.25pm The Food Programme
12.55pm Weather
1.00pm The World at One (FM, LW)

FREQUENCY GUIDE RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 188; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 653, 659. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 105.8. CLASSIC FM. FM 100.5-102.5. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1197, 1215. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Macey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson



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McGrath's pace denies Sri Lanka sanctuary from gathering storm

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE wretched progress of Sri Lanka on their tour of Australia continued yesterday as they were forced to follow on after their batsmen capitulated to the home side's pace attack on the third day of the second Test at Melbourne.

However grateful they were to experience a day free from the sort of controversies that have riven their odyssey thus far, they were cast into greater despondency by a performance ominously resonant of that in the first Test, which they lost by an innings.

Although spared the glare of new ignominy off the pitch, the issue of the suspect action of their off spinner, Muttiah Muralitharan, rumbled on, first with an admission by the team's management that they had considered sending him home, and later with declarations of support for the 23-year-old bowler coming from Richie Richardson, the captain of the West Indies team also on tour in Australia, and Allan Border, the former Australia captain.

McGrath, who is gradually assuming the mantle of the main strike bowler in the Australia attack, a position long held by Craig McDermott, troubled all the batsmen by generating extreme pace and bounce from the wicket.

The only genuine resistance was

Time, gentlemen, for Scots on the rocks

Christmas is past, the horror of New Year's Eve approaches. And as far as television is concerned that means just one thing — the annual invasion by the Scots. Ever since Moira Anderson and Andy Stewart conceded Hogmanay to a bald, fat Australian with a dry wit and an eye for a pretty girl, Scotland has plotted its revenge. This year it is almost complete.

Clive James is no more. Come Sunday night his place will be taken by Angus Deayton, a balding, thin Brit too busy reading someone else's dry wit off the Autocue to have much of an eye for a pretty girl. But that matters not — Deayton, you see, is half Scots. But just in case his Sassenach half turns out to have the upper hand on Sunday, pure-bred Scots have been arriving mob-handed and early. Last night, for instance, there was almost no escaping them, as the grand old man of

Scottish stand-up comedy, Billy Connolly, took on the bright young hope of Scottish drama, John Hannah. Somehow improbably it was Hannah who emerged triumphant, but Connolly had his moments — most of them chilly. Quite what Glasgow's finest had done to deserve banishment to the northern reaches of Canada in *Billy Connolly: A Scot in the Arctic* (BBC1) was never made clear. Perhaps it was a warning after his last series attracted an avalanche of complaints about bad language. Certainly, he was on his very best behaviour.

His main worry about spending a week alone in a tent at sub-zero temperatures was, as he delicately put it, "where do you go to the bathroom?". And apart from one brief and inoffensive story involving a polythene bag (there was a blizzard blowing) the question was left pretty much unanswered. Most out of character.

True, he did use a common vulgarism to describe the unexpected perils of sitting downwind of a team of constipated huskies but having consulted *Collins* I discovered the word's origin is the Old Norse, *freta* — so its use seemed appropriate and entirely forgivable.

Delicacy was even preserved when Connolly decided to celebrate the end of his polar exile with a streak. With only his seal skin boots for company, he gambolled naked in the snow — his modesty and our eyes protected only by a super-insulated snowflake. It was a very small snowflake, but then, as Connolly had frequently reminded us, the Arctic is very cold.

The fact that the Arctic is cold was just one of many unsurprising facts. It is also, it is quiet and rather inhospitable. Aware that this sort of thing does not make the most riveting tele-

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

vision and that the much vaunted threat from polar bears had failed to materialise, the Big Yin abandoned his banjo and took to his Skidoo.

"There were rumours of wildlife," he promised us. Sadly, however, the rumours proved to be greatly exaggerated. The only thing he found were the much chewed-up remains of a long-dead seal. A definite tone of

frustration entered his voice as he scanned the empty horizon. "There are millions of things that live here... but they are all white."

After years living in London and Los Angeles, Connolly's formerly impenetrable accent needs no translation. The same cannot yet be said of John Hannah, best known for his contribution to the thoroughly English *Four Weddings and a Funeral* but still sounding thoroughly Scottish in *McCallum* (ITV), the latest in a very long line of television pathologists. For soft southerners like myself it took a while to tune in.

But not nearly as long as it took to tune in to the drama itself, which in the first 20 minutes embraced just about every cliché in the thriller-making book. You know, the book that begins: "It was wet and the streets of night-time London were strangely black-lit."

Then, as mortuary porters sang "I should be so lucky" and chuck-

led cheerfully about the whiff of "eau de mort", things suddenly got worse with a turn of events so improbable that I still can't believe Patrick Lau's film ever recovered from it.

Just consider this — if you were a chap who had spent an evening with a flirtatious senior policeman, taken her for a drink, bought her a burger and then driven her home on your motorbike with her screaming with the excitement of not wearing a crash helmet, don't you think someone might have noticed? No?

Well, how about it, after you both then enjoy a spot of vigorous sex (shot like an audition piece for next Christmas's perverted commercials), said policeman is found with a bullet hole in her skull and you are the pathologist called in to investigate? Wouldn't a little hand creep up in reluctant admission: "Please sir, it wasn't

me, but I was there earlier?" Still no — well, you probably enjoyed the whole thing.

For me it took a little longer but I got there helped by Stuart Hepburn's script that got better as it went along and by two excellent performances from Gerard Murphy, as the wonderfully intimidating DI Bracken, and from Hannah as the hideously compromised pathologist.

But for all the well-paced excitement, there were still glorious moments of inadvertent comedy. My particular favourites were the female detective constable who went through the whole thing saying nothing but wearing Uma Thurman's wig from *Pulp Fiction*, and the dramatic denouement. Using the very latest technology, McCallum discovered that his late date had been strangled with a belt bearing the initials T. So what did he do? Naturally, he called his best friend — Tom.

BBC 1

- 7.00am News (Ceefax) (4790829) 7.10 Classical Music Animations (s) (231287) 7.35 Favourite Songs (r) (7230287) 8.00 News (Ceefax) (4790829) 8.10 Joe 90 (r) (5795610) 8.35 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (5795611) 9.00 News (Ceefax) (5031252) 9.05 Global Gatorash (s) (8167438) 9.30 Stone Producers (r) (44639) 10.00 Playdays (s) (5818177) 10.25 William's Wish Wellingtons (r) (5096323)
- 10.30 FILM: The Four Musketeers (1974, PG) Entertaining sequel to the 1973 hit with Michael York, Oliver Reed, Frank Finlay, Richard Chamberlain, Raquel Welch, Roy Kinnear. Directed by Richard Lester (Ceefax) (5397981)
- 12.10pm Beatrix Potter: The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends (r) (Ceefax) (s) (6299388)
- 12.40 Cartoon (54570252) 12.55 Regional News and weather (12998271)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) (4836678)
- 1.10 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (8881416) 1.30 Cartoon (15917233) 1.40 The Borrowers. With Ian Holm (2/2) (r) (Ceefax) (s) (3435967)
- 3.05 FILM: Supergirl (1984, PG) with Helen Slater as Superman's cousin, Ceefax (8163278)
- 5.05 Blue Peter — High Adventure. Highlights of the year (2/2) (Ceefax) (s) (2977813)
- 5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (714349)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (605233)
- 6.15 Regional News magazines (600788)
- 6.30 The World's Strongest Man. The Final. The ten competitors who made it through the qualifying rounds take part in the final stage in the Bahamas. Presented by Julie Morris and Paul Dickenson (Ceefax) (s) (35754)



John Craven reports from Morocco (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Animal Sanctuary. John Craven is in Morocco looking at the work of the British organisation, the Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad, which saves donkeys from a life of neglect. (Ceefax) (s) (368)
- 8.00 That's Showbusiness — Movies Special. A special edition of the entertainment quiz to celebrate the centenary of cinema. (Ceefax) (s) (8165)
- 8.30 A Question of Sport. David Coleman asks the questions in a seasonal edition of the sports quiz in which teams captained by Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham compete. (Ceefax) (s) (3900)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (4320)
- 9.30 Ghost (1990). Whimsical love story with Patrick Swayze, Demi Moore and Whoopi Goldberg. Directed by Jerry Zucker. (57542)
- 11.30 Films of the Year with Barry Norman. Barry Norman reveals his ten favourite films of 1995 (Ceefax) (s) (108368)
- 12.15am FILM: Little Big Man (1970) with Dustin Hoffman. Jack Crabb, now 121 years old, tells the story of his remarkable life as pioneer, adopted Cheyenne brave, gunfighter, conman and witness at Custer's last stand. Directed by Arthur Penn (Ceefax) (38824382)
- 2.30 Weather (5702566)

BBC 2

- 6.45 FILM: Limelight (b/w, 1952) starring and directed by Charles Chaplin (19794725)
- 6.55 FILM: The Elephant Boy (b/w, 1961) Farical comedy, starring and directed by Jerry Lewis (28082707)
- 10.30am The Voyages of Charles Darwin. In September 1833 Darwin began his journey to Buenos Aires, travelling across the Argentine pampas (r) (4/6) (62788)
- 11.30 The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures — Planet Earth, an Explorer's Guide. How solid rocks turn into liquid lava (s) (s) (62166)
- 12.30pm The River of Sound. The evolution of traditional Irish music (3/3) (s) (65504)
- 1.30 Yachting. The 1995 Vauxhall Ultra 30 Grand Prix (3313225)
- 2.10 FILM: Earth and the American Dream. (8545675)
- 3.25 FILM: More Lovely Than Ever: The Making of My Fair Lady (1287829)
- 4.25 Telly To The Barn Owl. John and Simon King's award-winning nature drama following the fortunes of a male barn owl, Tyto, and his mate. (r) (s) (3032982)
- 5.15 FILM: The Sound of Music (1965). Family viewing, with Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer and Eleanor Parker. In Salzburg, just before the start of the Second World War, a novice nun realises she does not have a religious vocation and leaves her convent to go to look after the seven children of Captain Von Trapp, a widowed, retired naval officer. Directed by Robert Wise. (Ceefax) (s) (54493185)
- 8.00 University Challenge with Jeremy Paxman. Birmingham University v Selwyn College. Cambridge (Ceefax) (s) (6707)
- 8.30 FILM: Slice of Life. Burgers and Suburbia (Ceefax) (6542)
- 9.00 Reeves and Mortimer — Christmas Shooting Stars. Joining Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer are Ulrika Jonsson, Mark Lammey and George Dawes. (Ceefax) (126287)
- 9.40 Knowing Me, Knowing You... with Alan Partridge. (Ceefax) (s) (567788)



Tim Robbins stars as Griffin Mill (10.20pm)

- 10.20 FILM: The Player (1992). Star-studded comedy thriller about a Hollywood director who is threatened with murder. Among those making cameo appearances are Cher, Peter Falk and Bruce Willis. Directed by Robert Altman. (Ceefax) (s) (910252)
- 12.20am Hearts of Darkness — A Film-Maker's Apocalypse. Documenting the making of Francis Coppola during the making of his film, *Apocalypse Now*. (s) (997935)
- 1.55 Weather (2687382)

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CHOICE

- More Lovely Than Ever
BBC2, 3.25pm
Those who watched *My Fair Lady* on Boxing Day may not have realised how close one of the most elegant of screen musicals came to being lost. The original negative was not only fading badly but scratched, dirty and torn. As this documentary relates, a team of restorers spent six months on a rescue operation. There are other revelations. Everyone knows that Audrey Hepburn's singing voice was eventually dubbed, but before Hepburn had herself recorded *Wouldn't It Be Lovely*, a fascinating and little-seen piece of footage. A further tidbit is that James Cagney was the original choice for Doolittle. The programme is presented by Jeremy Brett, one of the last surviving cast members until his death this year.

Earth and the American Dream

- BBC2, 2.10pm
A combative documentary from the United States argues that the American dream of riches has been achieved at the expense of the natural environment. The programme offers a history of North America from Columbus to the present day, angled towards man's (specifically the white man's) determination to put his own wellbeing first. Forests are felled, Indians driven off their territory, buffalo slaughtered and, coming closer to our own times, the air made dangerous through industrial pollution and nuclear radiation. The story is relayed through the words of Presidents, tycoons, writers, pundits and ordinary folk spoken by a cast of Hollywood luminaries from Harrison Ford to Dustin Hoffman and Bette Midler.

Slice of Life: Burgers and Suburbia

- BBC2, 8.30pm
The final programme in this succulent series is not so much about what we are eating as who is doing the cooking. Gone are the days when men worked and women stayed at the stove. Yet although more than half of married women are now working, old attitudes persist. The programme finds that even in these liberated times, women still feel guilty if they fail to prepare the family meal. At the same time, the man in the kitchen is still a rare, and often comic, figure. A bigger change is that fewer and fewer families are sitting down to meals together. The film suggests (perhaps a shade tongue in cheek) that this is symbolic of the modern family in crisis and even replays John Major's famous call for a return to basics.



Steve Coogan as Alan Partridge (BBC2, 9.40pm)

- Knowing Me, Knowing You... With Alan Partridge
BBC2, 9.40pm
The notable absentee from Steve Coogan's recent multi-character series was his most famous creation, the permanently irritating chat show host Alan Partridge. But Coogan fans are not to be deprived and, since it is the festive season, the helping of Partridge is bigger than usual. Partridge is funny because although he is a spoof, he could so easily exist. Moreover, his nonsense is all the more enjoyable for being delivered with a straight face. Insults at the ready, he lets fly at guests who include a TV chef in drag and a singer in a wheelchair, but being struck by lightning. These are inventions, but there is also a seasonal contribution from the real Mick Hucknall of Simply Red. He, at least, looks real. Peter Waymark

CARLTON/LWT

- 6.00am GMTV News and sport (5076320)
- 9.25 The New Adventures of He-Man. There's Game in Them Hills (r) (8172398)
- 9.50 Batman Mad as a Hatter (s) (1753146)
- 10.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (6562851)
- 10.30 FILM: The Man in the Iron Mask (1977) starring Richard Chamberlain, Patrick Macnee and Louis Jourdan. A remake of Alexander Dumas' tale about Louis XIV's identical twin. Directed by Mike Newell (5653320)
- 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (8016233)
- 12.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (2874271)
- 12.55 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (8923504)
- 1.30 FILM: The Return of the Musketeers (1989) starring Michael York, Oliver Reed and Frank Finlay. (25547165) 3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (6562851) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) (8016233)
- 3.30 FILM: Straight Talk (1992, PG) starring Dolly Parton, James Woods and Griffin Dunne. A country girl heads for the bright lights of Chicago. (Teletext) (s) (352542)
- 5.10 After 5 with Carol Keating (Teletext) (2561252)
- 5.40 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (785962)
- 6.00 Home and Away Special: Sophie's Baby. (Teletext) (347287)
- 6.25 London Tonight. (Teletext) (748349)
- 7.00 Family Fortunes. This week the Taylor family from Skelmersdale compete against the Joyce family from Hertfordshire. (Teletext) (s) (7813)
- 7.30 Coronation Street. Will Derek (Peter Baldwin) get Norris (Marian Hadden) to the church on time? (Teletext) (436)
- 8.00 The Bill. Journey Home. Carver's loyalties are tested. (Teletext) (3233)
- 8.30 Faith in the Future. A Moving Moment. Faith's prayers are answered when daughter Hannah finally moves out. With Lynda Bellingham and Julia Sawalha. (Teletext) (s) (2368)



Grandpa Fred (Prosky) and friends (9.00pm)

- 9.00 FILM: Gremlins 2 — The New Batch (1990) starring Robert Prosky. Gizmo, the furry magpie, is subjected to scientific experiments which make him spawn vicious, mischievous offspring. Directed by Joe Dante. (Teletext) (s) (2455)
- 11.00 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (346287)
- 11.15 London Tonight (Teletext) (505523)
- 11.20 FILM: Men Don't Leave (1990) starring Jessica Lange, Arliss Howard and Joan Cusack. The film tracks the emotional and financial burdens facing a mother whose husband is killed in an accident. Directed by Paul Brickman. (Teletext) (s) (610875)
- 12.00am FILM: Black Sunday (1977) starring Robert Shaw, Bruce Dern and Marthe Keller. An international terrorist organisation plans a massacre at a top sporting occasion. Directed by John Frankenheimer (2174102)
- 4.00 The Chart Show (s) (2449188)
- 4.50 FILM: Block Busters (1994 b/w). A Bowery Boys comedy, directed by Wallace Fox (6640283)
- 5.55 ITN Morning News (545176). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.45am Ulysses 31 (r) (1518097) 7.10 The Adventures of Tintin (r) (2236087) 7.35 Little Dracula (r) (7150087)
- 8.00 The Big Breakfast (1891)
- 10.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class. High-school comedy (8030487) 10.25 Babylon 5. Science-fiction (r) (s) (3969165) 11.20 California Dreams. Teen comedy (r) (1725207)
- 11.45 Biker Mice From Mars (s) (2049436) 12.10pm The Super Mario Bros (r) (3746101) 12.20 Dennis (r) (8014875) 12.30 Sesame Street (84900)
- 1.30 Silent Love. Wordless German production about an impoverished couple who each sacrifice an item of value to buy the other a worthless gift (96671813)
- 1.50 FILM: The Princess and the Pirate (1944, b/w) Bob Hope and Virginia Mayo in a comedy about a cowardly vaudeville mixed up with pirates on the Spanish Main. Directed by David Butler (2558271)
- Followed by The X mas Files: The Ox. The keeper at Whipsnade Zoo provides a commentary to Georgette Tott St. Jan's *The Nativity at Night*
- 3.40 FILM: The Three Musketeers (1948). Family viewing. Gene Kelly in a swashbuckling yarn directed by George Sidney (8904390)
- 6.00 Blossom (r). (Teletext) (s) (542)
- 6.30 Happy Days (r). (Teletext) (960878)
- 6.55 Terrytoons featuring Mighty Mouse (551233)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (5455)
- 7.30 The Wonderful World of Dogs. Australian director Mark Lewis examines the problems, the myths, the obsessions and the love of dogs by exploring different attitudes towards them. One woman is obsessed with dogs messing her lawn, another had her holiday spoiled when a hungry penguin ate her chihuahua. Then there is Lucy, a persistent offender with more than 100 convictions under Australia's 1966 Dog Act who has cost her owner "thousands and thousands of dollars" in fines but who reckons the mutt is worth it for the love it has given him. (25271)
- 8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (3610)
- 9.00 Dressing For Breakfast. Last in the comedy series starring Beattie Edney. (Teletext) (s) (2418)
- 9.30 Rory Bremner. Apparently. With John Bird and John Fortune (s) (58962)
- 10.30 The Strip Show. An all-cartoon sketch show with the voices of Ronnie Ancona, Alistair McGowan, Rebecca Front and Enn Riel (159078)
- 11.05 Eurotrash Christmas Special. Jean Paul Gauthier and Annie De Courtes savour the world's biggest orgy (s) (95592)



Life is a drag for Lily Savage (11.35pm)

- 11.35 Lily Savage Live: Paying the Rent. Recorded in 1993 (Teletext) (s) (841707)
- 12.35 FILM: The Return of Dracula (1958, colour and b/w). Directed by Paul Landres (4105222)
- 1.55am The Apollo Theatre Hall of Fame. Stars are welcomed to the Harlem Apollo Theatre's Hall of Fame. (r) (s) (421653)
- 3.55 The World of Hammer. How Hammer depicted Dracula and the undead (r) (81408295). Ends at 4.30

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
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England struggle on after injustice threatens to turn Test series against them

Atherton suffers for umpire's mistake

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN PORT ELIZABETH

PORT ELIZABETH (third day of five): England, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 178 runs behind South Africa

MICHAEL ATHERTON held his temper here yesterday and his England team held its nerve. Neither, however, was achieved without duress after an umpiring decision of such untimely deficiency that this fourth Test match, and consequently this precariously balanced series, could have rested upon it.

England's prospects of avoiding the follow-on and probably saving the game depended disproportionately upon Atherton. In such circumstances, they always do. It is a responsibility of which the captain is aware and unafraid and, even when he had battled through five hours of typical self-denial and England, at 164 for three, required only a further 66 for the main staging post of the salvage operation, he knew his job was not quite done.

Atherton faced Paul Adams for what was to be the discussion point of the day. He had faced him, without apparent difficulty, many times previously, for the unconventional subtleties of this symbol of new South Africa cut no ice with Atherton. Nor did he look remotely concerned when Adams speared a chinaman down the leg side, plainly brushing the top of Atherton's left pad before being taken by the wicketkeeper, David Richardson.

There had been a noise, though, and the unsighted close fielders appealed, along with bowler and wicketkeeper. The umpire, Cyril Mitchley, agreed with them and Atherton, stunned if not quite dumbstruck, stood for a long moment before beginning one of the slowest retreats this old ground can ever have seen.

As could so wearily have been predicted, England now lost four wickets for 37, two of them to the second new ball, and it required a durable unbroken eighth-wicket stand of 50 between Jack Russell and Richard Illingworth to avert the threat of the follow-on. At the end of a hot, slow but crucially absorbing day, England were still not safe, but



Richardson, the South Africa wicketkeeper, appeals and Atherton, having watched the ball brush his left pad, stalks off, barely attempting to conceal his disgust at umpire Mitchley's decision



PHOTOGRAPHS: GRAHAM MORRIS

they were a good deal closer than had seemed likely either side of tea.

Mitchley is South Africa's senior umpire, officiating in his eleventh Test. Last summer, when he stood in two of England's Tests against West Indies, Mitchley was the umpire involved at Old Trafford when Dominic Cork dislodged a bail with his back foot, but survived because no fielder appealed. If that was contentious, yesterday's decision was clear-cut. Mitchley got it wrong.

Atherton's response was indignant and distressed, to the point where one waited in fear of the explosion. It did not, however, cross the boundaries of dissent or ungentlemanly

conduct. He did not swear, he did not gesture to his pad and, if he left no one in much doubt as to his view of the decision, it was done with restraint. He walked off with a questionable degree of reluctance, but a cricketer, even an England captain, must be allowed some show of emotion or in this game, which is already shrouded behind helmets and sunglasses, will descend into anonymity.

Peter Burge, quite unreasonably, fined Atherton in similar circumstances at the Oval two years ago, but that was while the dirt-in-pocket affair was smouldering as the hidden agenda. The match referee yesterday, Clive Lloyd, rightly found nothing to concern him.

"I had no problem with it," he said. "I don't mind if a disappointed batsman walks off slowly, so long as he gets off."

Lloyd preferred instead to speak at the tea interval to the

respective team managers, issuing warnings regarding gestures made by Dominic Cork to Daryll Cullinan and by Brian McMillan to Robin Smith. Small beer, in a series thankfully free of the froth of confrontation.

For England, yesterday offered only one option: bat as long as possible. With victory out of the equation, they could

afford no more strokes of the cavalier inadequacy ventured by Alec Stewart on Wednesday evening, but the morning was not completed without a similar sacrifice and at lunch, on 109 for three, the familiar reliance on Atherton was invoked yet again.

Jason Gallian had done well to see the second evening through, having virtually been handed the opener's role by Stewart's folly, but he had

not added to his overnight score yesterday when he pushed at a good one from Shaun Pollock and was caught behind. It was the second wicket of the session that will have brought hands flying to cover faces in the England dressing-room as Graham Thorpe set himself to dispatch a long-hop from Adams and instead pulled it straight to the one fielder in range, Jonty Rhodes, at mid-wicket.

England lived perilously in the remaining half-hour before lunch, not the stuff to settle nerves, but the mood changed under clear blue, afternoon skies and, for most of the middle session, Atherton and Hick played with composure.

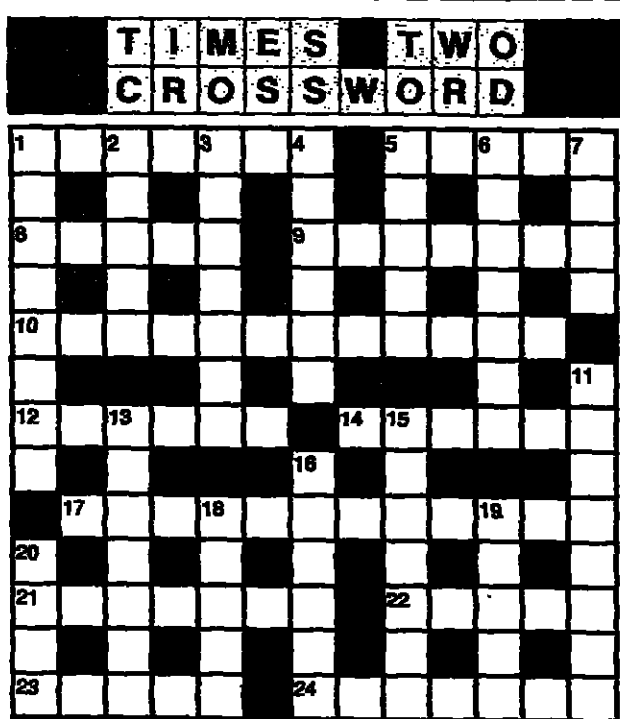
This remains a pitch on which good batsmen will fancy booking a lengthy stay. It is turning very slowly for Adams, but there is no life, no pace and, thus far, less variable bounce than had been expected. Atherton looked as if

it had never crossed his mind that he might get out and Hick was beginning to show similar assurance.

England had probably even begun to ponder a first-innings lead when, with the fourth wicket worth 75, Atherton was dispatched. A nervy Robin Smith followed, leg-before offering no stroke to McMillan, and when Cronje took the delayed new ball, seven overs into the final session, Hick and Cork perished immediately.

Russell's remarkable series shows no sign of decline, however, and with doughty support from Illingworth, the first threat was banished. Watching Russell face Adams, the crab facing the frog, may insult the MCC's coaching manual, but it makes for compelling viewing and England, for whom Mark Ilett will probably not be fit to bowl today, need more runs yet from their own curiosity to put this match to rest.

PORT ELIZABETH SCOREBOARD	
South Africa won by 10 runs	
SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 428 (D J Cullinan 91, D J Richardson 84, G Kirsten 51; D G Cork 4 for 113)	
ENGLAND: First Innings	
M A Atherton c Richardson b Adams 72 (297m, 237 balls, 6 fours)	
A J Stewart c Richardson b Pollock 4 (3m, 2 balls, 1 four)	
J E R Gallian c Cullinan b Pollock 14 (55m, 78 balls, 2 fours)	
G P Thorpe c Rhodes b Adams 27 (53m, 34 balls, 3 fours)	
G A Hick lbw b Donald 62 (150m, 158 balls, 1 six, 8 fours)	
R A Smith lbw b McMillan 2 (3m, 9 balls)	
R C Russell not out (128m, 89 balls, 3 fours)	
D G Cork c Richardson b Pollock 1 (3m, 3 balls)	
R K Illingworth not out (65m, 60 balls, 5 fours)	
Extras (lb 7, w 1, nb 9) 17	
Total (7 wds, 110 overs, 438m) 250	
P J Martin and M C Ilett to bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7 (Atherton 21, 230 (Atherton 24), 3-88 (Atherton 35), 4-163 (Hick 34), 5-168 (Hick 37), 6-189 (Russell 5), 7-230 (Russell 5))	
BOWLING: Donald 20-5-90-1 (nb 5); 4-0-0-0, 6-3-4-0, 4-1-0-0, 6-1-18-1; Pollock 22-6-84-3 (nb 3, w 1); 3-2-5-1, 2-1-0-0, 5-2-16-1, 7-2-15-0, 3-0-16-1, 2-1-5-0; Adams 32-10-73-2 (7-2-16-0, 6-2-21-1, 2-1-5-0, 12-5-28-1, 3-2-1-0); Matthews 20-7-48-0 (4-2-0-0, 5-0-14-0, 2-1-3-0, 4-1-13-0, 5-3-6-0); McMillan 15-30-1 (nb 1, 5-3-0-0, 7-3-13-1, 3-0-12-0); Cronje 1-1-0-0	
SCORING NOTES (third day, Lunch: 100-3 (51 overs, 192m) Atherton 48, G A Hick lbw b Donald 62, 5-0-14-0, 2-1-3-0, 4-1-13-0, 5-3-6-0; McMillan 15-30-1 (nb 1, 5-3-0-0, 7-3-13-1, 3-0-12-0); Cronje 1-1-0-0	
Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and C J Mitchley, TV replay umpire: R E Koorssen, Match referee: C H Lloyd (West Indies)	
RESULTS: First Test (Pretoria): match drawn. Second Test (Johannesburg): match drawn. Third Test (Durban): match drawn.	
TEST TO COME: Fifth (Cape Town), Jan 2 to 6	
Compiled by Bill Frindall	



No 664

ACROSS

- 1 Relevant, fitting (7)
- 5 Repulsive dirt (5)
- 8 Make fooling objection (5)
- 9 Measure of electromotive force (7)
- 10 Be in control (4,3,5)
- 12 Night-time deadline (6)
- 14 At once (slang) (6)
- 17 (Government) non-interference (7-5)
- 21 Seriously wicked (7)
- 22 Bark (shins): cut grass (5)
- 23 Fragment (5)
- 24 Master sheet with cut pattern (7)

DOWN

- 1 Precision (8)
- 2 Challenger (5)
- 3 Range of available colours (5)
- 4 Of the USSR (6)
- 5 Leaf of paper: large-format book (5)
- 6 Sauce thickener: type of officer (7)
- 7 Notice, attention (4)
- 11 Predict (5)
- 13 Come to understand (7)
- 15 Displaced person (7)
- 16 Against (6)
- 18 Crushed: cooker (5)
- 19 Son of Abraham (5)
- 20 Flake: silicon wafer (4)

The solution to 663 will be published Wednesday, January 3. The winners' names will appear on January 10.

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Testing times for men in charge



SIMON WILDE

At Port Elizabeth

History is routinely made in South Africa these days, but it is definitely and esoterically being made in cricketing terms in the fourth Test match at St George's Park this week. This Test is the first in which the two onfield umpires have been "wired up" so that their stress levels - which are considerable and seemingly ever-increasing - can be monitored by a team of medical experts.

As if Steve Bucknor and Cyril Mitchley did not have enough to do yesterday, before play began they had to strap on belts around their chests and slip extra watches over their wrists. The belts measured their heart-rates and the "watches" took readings from the belts every five seconds.

None of the results will be made public, but yesterday's data would be best kept under lock and key because several people would like to get their hands on the signals that came in during the half an hour before tea. Then,

Bucknor and Mitchley experienced the sort of frenzied period of play that is not uncommon in Test cricket and leads umpires to feel tight-chested and generally anxious about their long-term futures. Mitchley had the harder task, with Paul Adams operating with his peculiar brand of spin largely from his end. In quick succession, he was required to adjudicate on an appeal against Atherton for leg-before, followed by a concerted claim against him for a leg-side catch at the wicket. He turned down the former but gave the latter, to the obvious surprise of the England captain. Television replays suggested that the ball clipped a pad, not the bat. Was the latter decision affected by the former? More

precisely: was Mitchley feeling stressed? Perhaps fortunately for Mitchley and Bucknor, this is not a one-off experiment, but part of a programme that is still in its infancy. Last winter, samplings were taken from several domestic and international limited-overs matches.

However, already Professor Richard Stretch, of the East Province Cricket Academy and a member of the United Cricket Board of South Africa's medical committee, who is running the trials, believes that some conclusions can be drawn. The more experienced umpires - and Mitchley and Bucknor are experienced - tend to display more consistent heart-rates at times of

potential stress than the less experienced ones. That said, Stretch has readings from one umpire which were so consistently low that they feel he may not be sufficiently "aroused" by his job. A normal heart-rate is 70-75 beats per minute under pressure it may reach 140-150.

Stretch hinted yesterday that there was also evidence that the umpires who were deemed to have had a poor match in terms of the decisions they gave also displayed the most erratic heart-rates. He hopes that, ultimately, the collated data will enable medical advisers to offer a variety of breathing and other relaxation exercises which will help umpires to cope.

The most surprising aspect to this story is why the umpires have agreed to put themselves through this marking-by-medicine? "Take me as I am," is what they should have said. They have enough to concern themselves with without worrying about how their medical records are looking.

Football is hottest tip to beat big freeze

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SPORT is facing a weekend in cold storage as the severe weather conditions show little sign of easing. Undersoil heating seems certain to come to the rescue of the majority of matches in the FA Carling Premiership tomorrow, but elsewhere the prospects are bleak.

Rugby is the worst hit sport, with the four meetings today abandoned because of frost, and prospects for tomorrow little better.

In rugby union the cold snap is

providing a threat to England's preparations for the five nations' championship. The Rugby Football Union is recommending January 13 as the best alternative date for Courage league matches postponed tomorrow, but that weekend is scheduled for international training camps and is just a week before England's opening game in Paris.

Football appears more capable than most of beating the big freeze, at least at Premiership level, where only five clubs do not have undersoil heating. Condition checks for fixtures tomorrow produced

decidedly upbeat responses yesterday. The leaders, Newcastle United, visit West Ham United and, although Upton Park does not have heating, West Ham are "optimistic" that the game will go ahead. Richard Skirrow, the secretary, said: "Things have improved, we've at least managed to roll parts of the pitch."

Plans to move the rugby league Regal Trophy semi-final between St Helens and Warrington from Knowsley Road to Wigan's undersoil-heated Central Park tomorrow have been scrapped after police said they could not staff the match.

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of Brass
Wood
Cast Metal
Divan &
Mattress Sets
Furniture &
Bedlinens

More show than business in cinema's 100th year

Men in space suits, men in latex and seemingly unlimited high-tech special effects proved the crucial ingredients for success in Hollywood in 1995.

As the top ten list of blockbusters emerges for the 100th year of commercial cinema, *Batman Forever* and *Apollo 13* lead a field packed with action but leaving the American film industry gasping for profits.

In 1995 one columnist predicted that moving pictures would "not amount to much". He would not be far from the mark today at a global industry whose leading player, the Walt Disney Company, is worth more on the New York Stock Exchange than Ford. However, studio bosses are collectively wringing their hands over stagnant ticket sales despite an ever wider choice at the cinema.

"The business has to settle down," Bill Mechanic, the president of 20th Century Fox films, said recently. "It's a fool's errand to make more and more films, gambling that you will defy the odds and produce only hits. Some studios are going to get seriously burnt this year and next." Meanwhile, stars' salaries have been climbing in the manner of a Saturn rocket.

It was indeed a banner year for NASA and its greatest fan, Tom Hanks, whose role as astronaut Jim Lovell has virtually guaranteed him a third straight Oscar nomination. *Apollo 13* set the tone for a clutch of films that appealed to male adrenaline junkies more than critics or the voters in the coming season of awards ceremonies. It is also one of only six films this year to break the magical \$100 million (\$65 million) barrier in box-office takings.

Beyond this mark, Hollywood deems a film a certified hit. In 1994 ten releases qualified and Disney's *The Lion King* ranked past the \$200 million mark in a matter of weeks. There were no comparable mega-hits this year despite high hopes and a budget of \$120 million invested by Warner Brothers in *Batman Forever*. Meanwhile, the price of an "A-list" male star has risen to \$20 million a film.

Sylvester Stallone led the inflationary trend, landing a \$60 million deal for his next three films. The industry's confidence in his brand of relentless violence and minimal dialogue was repaid with two palpable flops, *Judge Dredd* and *Assassins*. They cost some \$150 million between them to make, but have yet to break even.

The perils of high-budget film-making in an age of overpaid stars were felt on the Scottish moors as well: here,



A columnist in 1895 predicted films would not "amount to much". Giles Whittell looks at a huge but ailing industry

strenuously denying reports of injuries among the extras hired for his epic battle scenes, Mel Gibson directed and starred in *Braveheart*, a romantic and bloodthirsty reconstruction of Scottish history in the years before Bannockburn. It took \$66 million in America, hardly covering its costs, but it was still the most successful in a trio of medieval dramas crowding what is at the best of times a niche market.

Liam Neeson and Jessica Lange covered similar ground in *Rob Roy*, billed as "the motion picture event of the year" but rejected by audi-

"It's a fool's errand to continue making more and more films"

ences as the biggest flop of the spring. Sean Connery and Richard Gere fared even worse in *First Knight*, an Arthurian damp squib most notable for Gere's unwelcome aggressive kissing of Julia Ormond.

"If this were the auto industry, all the major manufacturers would get together in a room and agree to shut down the assembly line for six months," one studio chief told *Daily Variety* this month. "Reducing the number of productions is really what everyone wants".

Millionaire men who proved their worth included Bruce Willis, whose third *Die Hard* outing included a politically correct subplot about "reverse racism" in *Die Hard With A Vengeance*, and Brad Pitt's mating ritual, who has proved equally watchable half-naked in *Thelma & Louise* and as a haggard special agent in a manhunt on the trail of a serial killer in *Seven*.

The year's most remarkable story of box-office durability was Kevin Costner's. He risked his career and the mockery of the film industry by directing and starring in *Waterworld*, history's costliest film. Since opening it has confounded critics by taking more than \$200 million internationally. Costner will be back next year on the relative-

ly firm ground of a golfing drama called *Tin Cup*.

The first half of 1995 marked a spectacular comeback for Don Simpson and Jerry Bruckheimer, Hollywood's definitive "bad boy" producers. Since their first success with *Top Gun* they have driven identical black Ferraris.

The pair delivered *Crimson Tide*, which made riveting use of Gene Hackman as a war-mongering nuclear submarine captain and Denzel Washington as his mutinous second-in-command. They also produced *Dangerous Minds*, a surprise hit about a former marine and her class of life-threatening teenagers in a San Francisco high school. It revealed that Michelle Pfeiffer now stands virtually alone as a female superstar who can be relied on at the box office.

Mr Simpson's luck ran out suddenly when a friend and aspiring screenwriter was found dead of a drug overdose in a guest-house beside the producer's swimming pool. Although foul play was not suspected, the hard-living Mr Simpson was questioned by police in a scandal that would have attracted much more attention but for his namesake, the former American footballer.

Among other shameful lapses barely noticed in the year of the O.J. Simpson trial was Hollywood's obstinate failure to write powerful, popular roles for women. The female lead of the year was a cartoon cut-out called *Fuchon*, while Meryl Streep returned to the big screen after an absence of several years - but as a doe-eyed housewife who chose family over adventure in *The Bridges of Madison County*.

It came as scant consolation to agitators for stronger women's roles that the year's most embarrassing flop was *Showgirls*, the expose of tap dancing in Las Vegas that revealed, in the end, nothing more than flesh.

Flesh, and a wildly lavatorial brand of humour based on it, proved more profitable for a former stand-up comedian from Canada who became the star of 1995 in any genre or gender, Jim Carrey, the rubber-faced hero



Tom Hanks, left, appears to be heading for a third Oscar nomination in succession for *Apollo 13*, which was not, despite the title, a sequel, unlike *Batman Forever*, featuring Chris O'Donnell, centre, as Robin, and *Die Hard With A Vengeance*, starring Bruce Willis, right



of *Ace Ventura, Pet Detective*, demonstrated why studios are so beloved of sequels with his latest dose of pubescent hyperactivity: *Ace Ventura, When Nature Calls*.

This odyssey to inner Africa and the depths of plodding nonsense broke all records for an opening weekend in America and within six weeks had become Carrey's fifth consecutive \$100 million hit. The founders of cinema, on their hundredth anniversary, might turn in their graves to know

that he and Sylvester Stallone are now the highest-paid actors in the world.

They are unlikely to be considered for Oscar nominations. Instead, Tom Hanks's competition in the best actor category will probably come from Sir Anthony Hopkins, nominated for his title role in *Nixon*; Sir Ian McKellen for *Richard III*; and Clint Eastwood, who directed and starred in *The Bridges of Madison County*. Emma Thompson already dominates

pre-Oscar speculation in several categories for *Sense and Sensibility*, her adaptation of the Jane Austen novel that was nominated for five Golden Globe awards last week including best film, best actress and best screenplay.

After a year in which the blockbusters made money, but not enough, and won little critical acclaim, "art house" offerings may be better represented than usual come Oscar night. Low-budget contenders for best film include *Leaving*

Las Vegas, starring Nicholas Cage, and *Restoration*, in which Hugh Grant plays his least noticed cameo role of 1995.

Washington: Alfred Hitchcock's *North by Northwest* and the 1951 science fiction classic *The Day the Earth Stood Still* were among 25 films added on Wednesday to the National Film Registry which Congress created to celebrate American cinema and call attention to a need to preserve the country's film heritage. (AP)

TOP TEN GROSSING FILMS OF 1995 IN THE US

As of December 18

1. *Batman Forever* (Warner) \$184m
2. *Apollo 13* (Universal) \$172m
3. *Pocahontas* (Disney) \$141m
4. *Ace Ventura - When Nature Calls* (Warner) \$103m
5. *Die Hard With A Vengeance* (Fox) \$100m
6. *Casper The Friendly Ghost* (Universal) \$100m
7. *Crimson Tide* (Disney) \$91m
8. *Waterworld* (Universal) \$88m
9. *Seven* (New Line) \$86.6m
10. *Toy Story* (Disney) \$86m

● RUNNERS UP

Dangerous Minds (Disney) \$83m

Bridges of Madison County (Warner) \$71m

Source: *Variety*

Former political allies battle for Japan's top job

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

WITH the election of Ichiro Ozawa as head of Japan's main opposition party, disciples of Kakuei Tanaka, the legendary political fixer dubbed the "Shadow Shogun", have risen to lead the nation's two main parties.

Mr Ozawa and his old rival Ryutaro Hashimoto, the president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), are key candidates to become Prime Minister after the next general election, which many members of parliament expect around next June.

Tomichi Murayama, the Prime Minister, need not call elections until mid-1997, but lawmakers in both ruling and opposition camps say elections are likely to be held after the end of the next regular 150-day session of parliament in June.

Mr Hashimoto, the Trade Minister in the coalition Cabinet, was elected as leader of the Liberal Democratic Party in September. On Wednesday, Mr Ozawa beat his long-time colleague, Tsutomu Hata, in the contest for leader of the main opposition

Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), which he helped to form last year in a merger of nine small parties. That sets the stage for a head-on clash between Mr Ozawa and Mr Hashimoto because of the introduction of new single-seat constituencies.

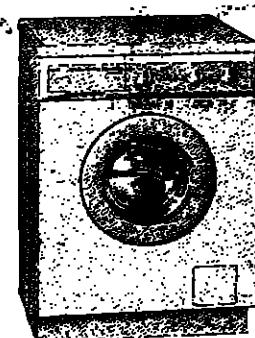
Until the last general elections in 1993, Japan's electoral system was based on multi-seat districts. These ensured the survival of the traditional opposition, the Socialists, and other smaller or fringe parties, such as the communists.

The Liberal Democratic Party holds 209 seats in the 517-member lower house, the more powerful of Japan's two chambers, while Shinshinto has 190 seats.

Mr Murayama's Socialists have 63 seats and the small Sakigake Party of Masayoshi Takemura, the Finance Minister, has 22 seats.

The new single-seat system means that either of the two main parties might win a landslide victory and therefore dominate the new lower house - which will have only 500 members.

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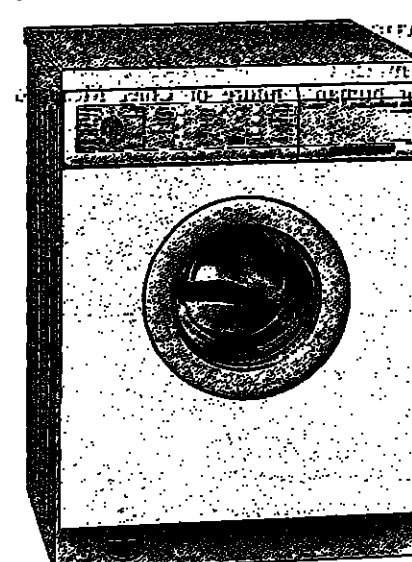
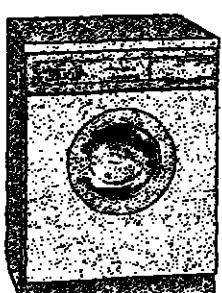
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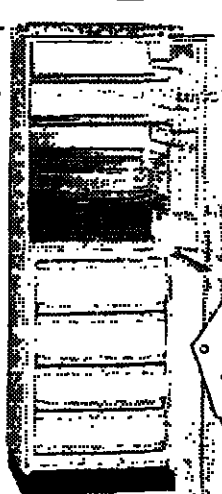


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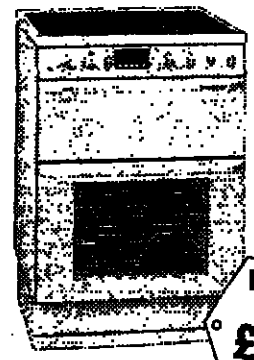


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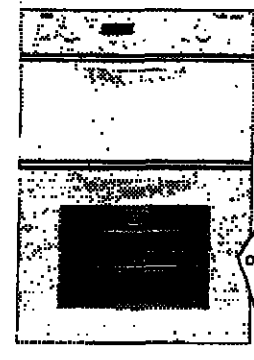
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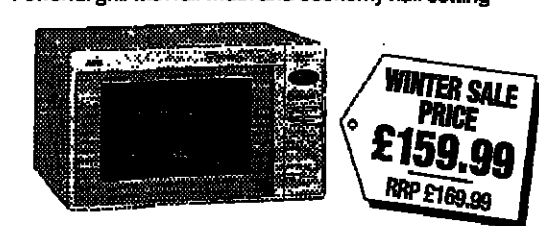
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'Overwork could send you to an early grave'

As people return to work after the festivities, Professor Cary Cooper offers a timely reminder that staying late at the office could put your health and marriage at risk

May we wish all our readers a happy and in-dolent new year? We approach 1996 bombarded with warnings against overwork.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Christmas sermon reminded us that "those who work too hard will pay a price in terms of relationships and family life." Cardinal Basil Hume echoes the view: "No institution is more important than the family, no relationship more precious than that between husband and wife." The Mothers' Union, meeting in Guildford, claims that Surrey now has Europe's highest divorce rate, more than 40 per cent, and blames the strain of commuting and long working hours among its high-achieving residents. The *Moral Maze* took up the question yesterday: can the family survive?

A good moment, then, to ring the psychologist Professor Cary Cooper of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST). As his book titles reflect — *Executive Stress: Stress in Marriage: Working Women: Relax: dealing with stress: Women's Career Stress Management: Career Couples: contemporary lifestyles and how to manage them* — stress is his scene.

I found that he was, like me, in the throes of Christmas cheer in the family bosom. Professor Cooper, who lists "enjoying my four children" third on his list of recreations in *Who's Who* (after "19th-century Russian fiction" and "living in hope with Manches-

ter City Football Club"), has a wife, Rachael, who works full-time as a senior research fellow at Salford. But this week they had given over their time entirely to the family.

My call was interrupted twice by a daughter looming over my desk to accuse me of having taped over something

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



called "Horrible Music". How about the stress of teenage children? I asked the wise psychologist, Professor Cooper, who has two older children living near by, as well as a ten and 13-year-old, said he knew all about that: he'd just been in a car for hours with the girls and their Boyzone tapes.

"It is very strange," he says, "to think of Britain as a country with a high divorce rate. My American friends say, 'Hey, Cary, you moved to England 30 years ago for the stability of life.'"

On reflection, he thinks the stress of working too hard was possibly a factor in the break-up of his first marriage:

"People in their thirties are generally trying to impress the boss." Now he makes a point of working a shorter day. Two working parents (increasingly the norm) equals pressure. "Added to which, most organisations are cutting down: 'downsizing' or 'rightsizing' as they say in the States. So fewer people are doing more work, and working longer hours out of insecurity. Hence the 'jacket-on-the-back-of-the-chair syndrome' — what I term 'presenteeism': staying longer at work because they don't want to be included in the next tranche of redundancies."

"So they get home later and then have conflicts over who should be doing what. Women have a surer commitment to domesticity, and will generally resist working longer; men have more conflict and confusion, threatened by the increasing number of women in the workplace. They are less likely to leave the office early to help unload the washing machine at home," he says.

"These facts would not be a problem if we had an extended family or a strong community life. Why are *Coronation Street* and *The Archers* so popular? People look on them as metaphors: we wish we, too, had a pub we could walk into and know everyone, and neighbours who would rush to help if something went wrong. But in a mobile society we lack that infrastructure."

He identifies another cause of stress: the increased pace of life. "Technology was supposed to be our support and salvation. But all it has done is to enhance and quicken the pace of life. A train journey to

London used to be a reflective time for me, time to read a book. Now everyone in the carriage has a mobile phone and nobody stops working. What has the fax done for us, except demand immediacy of response, and raise the expectations of the people who manage us?"

Professor Cooper is 55. He was born in Los Angeles, the son of a Russian father and a Romanian mother. But a childhood friend from England introduced him to the Goons and other arcane corners of English life. After UCLA he came to Britain, did his doctorate at Leeds, lectured at Southampton, and was invited by Sir (then Professor)

Roland Smith to UMIST as a psychologist. Thirty years later he says: "I am a born-again Mancunian."

Professor Cooper's department at Manchester has cornered the market in occupational stress research. At business conferences, he tells bosses how much the stress caused by long working hours is costing them in commercial terms. "I tell them, we have the highest working hours in Europe. And you know who has the lowest? Germany. So there is an opposite link. Those long hours are not good for your company. Your staff get home late and exhausted."

"And I tell these senior people in management: if you drive yourself to a heart attack, the business will carry on without you. The company will say 'Sorry, Fred', but they will survive. Organisations, even the most benevolent, do not value you as much as your own family does. People say, 'I know the damage it's doing to me' but they feel it's beyond their control. They have to be reminded that the family is important."

The term "stress" is already overworked; the young use "stressed out" to describe the mildest of annoyed feelings. Is it scientifically classifiable? Professor Cooper identifies three stages of stress. "The first is behavioural. You have difficulty in concentrating, and in making decisions. You are irritable, you begin to lose your sense of humour, you are aggressive and assertive."

But then "that boiling behaviour erupts into physical manifestations: stomach problems, irritable bowel syndrome, sleeplessness, headaches, even the suppression of the immune system, leading to constant colds."

"The third phase, in severe and chronic stress — not just the temporary stress of an exam, but the long-term misery of a bad marriage, a broken career, a devaluing boss who makes you reluctant to go to work — is serious physical illness. I do not say that stress causes heart disease or cancer. But you are a loaded gun, your genetic make-up predisposes you to certain diseases and you have bullets in your chamber, in your genes. You may have breast cancer there, I may have heart disease: stress is the trigger."

The sociologists Rhona and Robert Rapoport first reported on dual-career families in 1969. By 1976, they declared:



Professor Cary Cooper makes a point of spending more time with his wife and daughters. "People have to be reminded that the family is important"

"We now emphasise the importance of decreasing the amount of time spent at work outside the home by men and women." They mentioned even then — when dual-career family life still seemed a daring option — that it was a "stressful" way of life. That was 20 years ago. "Yes," says Professor Cooper, "a lot of us have been writing these things for a very long time now. You may ask, why doesn't anything change? Well, there is slow, insidious change. If we can demonstrate that long hours and new technology endanger health and marriages, employers will begin to hear the message — especially if you can prove that it will adversely affect their business. They know that sickness and absenteeism are high. People, like machines, can be pushed hard for several years but they will break down."

He is optimistic that companies will realise the increasing importance of allowing time for families and elderly

relatives. "Flexibility in working hours is essential. It's difficult in heavy manufacturing, perhaps, but outside that area, an employer may say: 'We need you to sell x number of insurance policies. We give you flexi-place and flexi-time.' The family of the future requires a lot of flexibility. And a lot of trusting by employers. No longer can employers have people under their thumb. But bosses are parental figures to most of us; we want to please them. As for commuting — getting into a car and getting clogged up and stressed out on the M25 is the least productive way of spending your time. Why not work at home until 11am? Commuting is a killer."

Parents At Work, the pressure group that urges companies to be more family-friendly, reported last month on today's excessively long working hours: "Put starkly, 72 per cent of working mothers report always being exhausted at the end of the day; one in

five say their marriages are at risk; and three out of five mothers say they don't see enough of their children."

"Workplace pressure means mothers often rush home from work to spend some time with their children — only to work late into the evening when the children are asleep." They are "too afraid of losing their jobs" to work shorter hours. The report concluded: "Our research confirms that Britain's long-hours culture is seriously undermining the quality of life. We must challenge this culture, for everyone's sake."

So Linda Kelsey's famous retreat from *She* magazine last month was only the tip of an iceberg. We should all go home, play more. Professor Cooper sets aside time from stress-observing to swim twice a week, and support Manchester City. Such therapeutic solutions — like laughter, solitude, music — may seem staggeringly obvious.

As John Masefield said: "The days that make us happy make us wise." It seems we need regularly reminding of this. Nobody on his deathbed has ever been heard to say: "I wish I'd spent more time at the office."

'People can be pushed hard but they will break down'

THE SUNDAY TIMES

1995: A YEAR IN PICTURES

The Magazine highlights the striking images of 1995, including the horrors of Chechnya
PLUS
Matthew Parris reviews a year of political and royal own goals



1996: A YEAR OF SPORT

From the Olympics to orienteering, The Sunday Times Sports Calendar is the definitive at-a-glance reference to the key dates. See Section 2 on Sunday

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

INSIDE SECTION

2

Lavish period effects are out, simplicity is in as *The Duchess of Malfi* comes to the West End.
Page 26

THE TIMES READER OFFER

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THE NEW *Times Atlas of the World*, now in its seventh edition has been completely revised. No comparative atlas has the range of computer generated reference maps included in this title.

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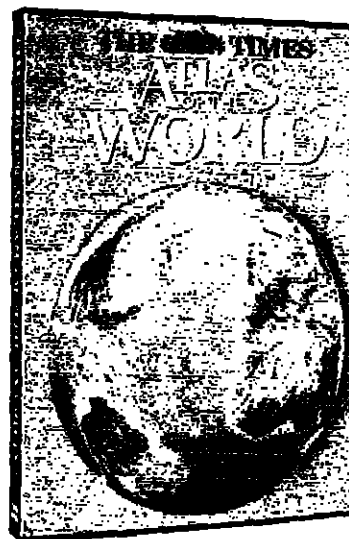
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Joseph Connolly argues that it is early days for the BBC to celebrate a decade of greed and grot

So who were these Eighties faces? The people who started things, changed things and made things happen, presumably. Margaret Thatcher, then; Bob Geldof, say. Who else? Peter York's opening episode is entitled *Pioneers*, and makes great play of such figures as Steve Strange, founder of the posey night-



We remember them all too well... Margaret Thatcher, the dominant political figure of the Eighties, "Saint" Bob Geldof, in full voice, and the style guru Peter York, who is resurrecting the era for BBC2

Robert Elms was determined that there had to be "an end to everything Seventies —

A lot may be gleaned from his typically condescending opening statement, as he straightens his tie knot on the first of innumerable occasions

me they feel confused, a bit guilty — in denial about their Eighties selves."

Oh, come off it — do they *really*? He concludes: "Don't you think it's time we talked about it?" No I don't. It's nowhere near time to talk about it because it's all so recent as to be unforgotten, all so familiar as to be a bore.

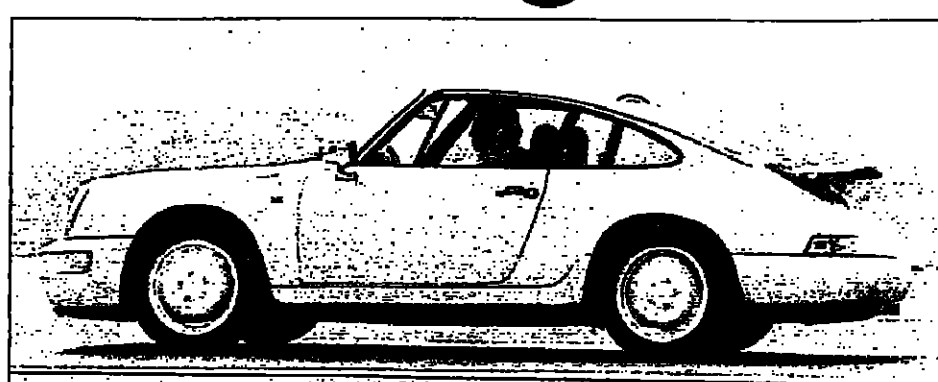
And why on earth, if documenting the Eighties was

Great viewing for all those still trapped by negative equity. Clear evidence that in many ways (the same government, after all, is still in power) the Eighties are not yet over. And here is the nub: all these convenient bite-sized all-purpose and predigested histories are so self-evidently spurious, not to say distortive, for the simple reason that decades do not obligingly com-

During the Forties, we either all pulled together, or else

Only within the past five years are really authoritative books about the war and postwar period emerging, benefiting from hindsight, scholarship and previously unavailable material; this *fin de siècle* of ours can be no more than individual and selective memory for at least another 25 years. ("Rebel" MP Teresa Gorman's own somewhat surprising Eighties recollection.

● The first episode of *The Eighties* is on January 6 (BBC2). The *Sounds of the Eighties* starts on January 12. Peter York's *The Eighties*. BBC Books (£12.99).



Ultimate street cred for a generation convinced it was on a fast track — a Porsche Carrera



The Filofax and the mobile phone were essential for a yuppie to be taken seriously



Martin Fletcher on
the woman who is
telling America's
feminists to
stop whining.



Laura Ingraham: on the right side

Since the Republicans swept to power on Capitol Hill last November, Miss Ingraham has seemed ubiquitous — attacking affirmative action pro-

Martin Fletcher on
the woman who is
telling America's
feminists to
stop whining.



Laura Ingraham: on the right side

grammes for women on television shows, testifying before congressional committees and writing articles for the *New York*, *Washington* and *Los Angeles Times*. "The idea that women are constantly thwarted by invisible barriers of sexism relegates them to permanent victim status," she argues.

Miss Ingraham is not a lone crusader. She is merely the chief "grenade thrower" of the Independent Women's Forum, a small but fast-growing group of smart, sophisticated high-achievers who feel—in the words of Barbara LeDeen, the IWF's executive director—that feminists should have long ago "declared victory and gone home". They have equally little in common with traditional conservative women's organisations like Concerned Women of America with its emphasis on God and family.

Just three years old, the IWF is making waves out of all proportion to its

size. It has filed a legal brief in support of all-male military colleges that are being sued to admit women. It campaigns against national "Take Your Daughter to Work Day," arguing that sons need encouragement much more. It denounced July's UN Women's Conference in Peking, starring Hillary Clinton.

The IWF has been fighting to reverse both the 1994 Violence Against Women Act, which it considers a costly bureaucratic sop to the feminist lobby, and a court ruling that universities must provide equivalent sports facilities for men and women. The IWF claims that ruling is forcing colleges to disband male football teams because they can neither fund more women's sports nor find enough females to participate.

The group's most mischievous foray was to back Paula Jones's sexual harassment suit against President Clinton. Its aim was to expose the hypocrisy of feminist groups who gleefully supported Anita Hill's charges against Clarence Thomas but refused to back similar charges against a Democratic president. Miss Ingraham was obliged to take an uncharacteristically low profile in that case because her firm was defending Mr Clinton.

The IWF has attracted funding from conservative foundations, publishes a quarterly magazine and boasts the high-powered wives of Richard Cheney, President Bush's Defence Secretary, and Phil Gramm, the Republican presidential candidate, among its members.

Though IWF has barely 700 members, compared to the National Organisation of Women's 260,000, it is "winning the war of ideas," claims Miss Ingraham.

Tomorrow she embarks on her most ambitious project yet, a "Dark Ages Weekend", a conservative alternative to the liberal "Renaissance Weekend" the Clintons attend on South Carolina's Hilton Head Island each New Year.

She has assembled an impressive steering committee, smokers will be welcomed, political correctness banned, and participants must pledge to avoid the Clintonesque habit of "feeling each other's pain".

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Philip Howard



■ When travelling in the snow, follow Dr Johnson's advice and stay at home

The Swiss do it. Finns keep their wheels turning through snow 20 times deeper than our shallow crust. Why cannot we descendants of globe-marauding pirates, merchant venturers, empire-builders and explorers of frozen wastes travel through snow? In a letter to Hugh Perkins on July 28, 1782, Dr Johnson, that armchair traveller who enjoyed a very occasional jaunt, gave his friend rules for going on a journey. Updated, they still make sound advice.

1. Travel by a conveyance that has been in snow before. The Christmas card stagecoach on which Johnson journeyed to Edinburgh and Lichfield has grown rusty. But the motorised Stagecoach will get you down the M6, even though it has knee-room for only a chimpanzee and cruelly wakes you for a compulsory tea-break if you manage to fall asleep.

2. If you must fly, pick a regular airline that is acclimatised to adverse weather, not the new Irish one offering wonderfully cheap and convenient flights between Prestwick and Stansted, of all pretty boondocks.

3. As soon as the cheerful announcer announces that your aircraft has not yet left Stansted to pick you up because visibility is still under 100 metres, remember the all-day freezing fogs of East Anglia. Be decisive and make alternative arrangements. Do not hang on for the imminent news that the announcer promises to make you cheer.

4. Carry plenty of books, in case the only book worth reading in the Prestwick "gift shop" turns out to be a travel romance by Andrew Sinclair, in which his clan ancestors roam to the far corners of the world from Feking to Vancouver without undue difficulty, apart from the Crimean War and Custer's last stand. Even the ship transporting the Sinclair crofters from their Highland clearances takes off on time.

5. Do not think about fragility. Your health and peace of mind are worth far more than any savings made. When you eventually do panic as the brief sun sets shivering into the Atlantic, take a minicab rather than public transport, however full Strathclyde buses may be of cheery folk with their snow horror stories of Glasgow being colder than Siberia and indeed the North Pole.

6. When approached by a friendly Glasgow matron with clipboard asking for help with a market survey grading airline services from very good to poor, simply and calmly state that such things are against your religion.

7. Cast away all anxiety, and keep your mind easy. Samuel's advice is sound, though easier given than followed as the lost travellers swirl around seeking advice about the state of the runway from work experience colleens in tartan and Irish livery.

8. Take now and then a day's rest, says Sam. But departure lounges are not restful places for even half an hour, with canned music, only partially audible announcements and mass anxiety.

9. Carry plenty of small change for telephones and Underground ticket dispensers, on the off chance that you find one that is still working now that the Christmas break is technically over. Write down the magic freephone number of the office before you set off, in case you garble its frequent zeros out of order. Take phone cards and even postage stamps in case you are delayed.

10. Wear boots for tramping through snow that crackles underfoot like powdered bones. Turn all care out of your head as soon as you mount the boarding-ramp. But it is the care that builds up while you are turned back from the brink of the boarding-ramp that gives the voyager travel-sickness.

11. Remember, this is not Siberian hell, not even Glaswegian hell, just winter. Because it bites seldom we are unprepared for it. Because we are economical we "save" money on travel — so wasting time, money and peace of mind in this false economy.

12. Remember the wartime slogan: "Is your journey really necessary?" Remember the poet Horace, stay at home, put another degree on the central heating, fill your glass with the modern Falernian, and admire the snow through gently steaming windows. Remember Samuel Johnson, full of sage advice for those contemplating a winter journey — but very difficult to tempt from his armchair, his fireside, his friends and his familiar warm home of life and work.

Tory policies have transformed manufacturing industry, says Tim Congdon, so why are we no better off?

Where have all Britain's middle-aged men gone?

The annual rate of increase in British manufacturing productivity was four times higher in the 15 years that spanned 1979-94 than in the six years from 1973-79. This fourfold acceleration put Britain virtually at the top of the international league table, with only Japan achieving a marginally faster rate of advance.

Why was this dramatic change not accompanied by a broader improvement in economic performance? In one way the explanation is simple. Over the past 20 years manufacturing has always been less than a quarter of the economy. So a rise in manufacturing productivity growth, no matter how spectacular, cannot generate a miracle for the whole economy. There must also be a higher growth rate in productivity in services, construction, farming and so on. As it happens, productivity growth in these other activities has been much the same under the present Government as before.

But the transformation of British manufacturing ought still to have had some impact on the growth rate of total national product. With manufacturing productivity growing at 4 per cent a year since 1979 compared with 1 per cent before, and with manufacturing representing more than a fifth of the economy, the growth rate of gross domestic product ought to have been boosted by about 0.5 to 0.75 per cent a year.

However, recent growth trends suggest that this has not happened. While there is room for debate about the amount of spare capacity (if any) currently in the British economy, the behaviour of the key data is more consistent with the idea that the trend growth rate since 1979 has been 2.25, or at most 2.5 per cent, than with the claim that it has been nearly 3 per cent a year.

A trend growth rate of 2.25 or 2.5 per cent a year is no higher than that achieved on average over the past 50 years. So what has gone wrong? Why has the revolution in manufacturing not

been followed by an increase in Britain's overall growth rate?

The question becomes even more puzzling when it is noted that the number of people at work today is much the same as it was 16 years ago, at about 25 million. If output per head in manufacturing has almost doubled, why has there not been some positive effect, however small, on the growth of total output? Has productivity growth outside manufacturing actually deteriorated under the Conservatives?

In an accounting sense, it is true that the growth of output per head in the dominant non-manufacturing part of the economy has been slower since 1979 than was typically the case in the preceding 30 or 40 years. But the productivity of the same type of worker doing the same kind of non-manufacturing job for the same length of time each week has, on the whole, been increasing at much the same rate over the last 16 years as before.

The trouble is that the type of worker, the nature of work and the length of the average working week have all been changing. The composition of the British working population today is quite different from what it was in 1979. This change in labour-force composition goes far to explain the disappointing growth.

To understand the importance of changing labour-force composition, a sweeping generalisation has to be made. This is that the most productive type of worker is a male working full-time between the ages of 35 and 65. In the era

of officially sponsored equality between the sexes and of government blessing for flexible part-time working, this generalisation may seem controversial, even shocking. However, it is amply confirmed by all surveys of individual workers' pay, including the annual New Earnings Survey prepared by the Department of Employment. The latest NES, carried out in April, showed that on average women work slightly fewer hours than men and earn 72 per cent as much. Meanwhile, part-time employees typically work about 15 hours a week.

Too many skilled men have been made redundant at their most productive age

compared with almost 40 hours a week for full-time employees. Part-time workers' earnings are only slightly more than a third those of full-time workers.

Assume that the differences in pay reflect underlying differences in productivity. (This too may seem a little presumptuous and offend the feminist lobby, but the alternatives are arbitrary and less plausible.) It is then easy to show that the change in the composition of the British labour force since 1979 has significantly reduced national output.

First, in June 1979, 60 per cent of the

workforce were men, but in June 1995 this had fallen to 55 per cent. Whereas the number of men at work has fallen by about 1.25 million over the past 16 years, the number of women has increased by about 1.25 million. With the total number of both men and women in work taken as given, the shift towards greater female employment since 1979 has reduced national output by almost 1.5 per cent. Alternatively, if the number of men employed today were the same as in 1979, total employment would be 1.25 million higher than it actually is, and national output would be increased by roughly 6 per cent.

Secondly, the role of part-time employment has doubled to more than 12 per cent in the 16 years of Conservative rule. As part-time workers are about a third as productive as full-time workers, the expansion in the part-time share has cut national output by perhaps 3.5 to 4 per cent.

The changed composition of the workforce can therefore be "blamed" for a loss of national output of somewhere between 5 and 10 per cent. There is no precise figure, because it depends on the preferred assumption about "what might have happened, but didn't". But even allowing for the uncertainties, there can be little dispute that the shift towards more female employment and the growth in part-time employment have reduced Britain's growth rate relative to what it might otherwise have been.

Indeed, the 5 to 10 per cent loss of

output due to the changed composition of the workforce equates over 16 years to a loss in the annual national growth rate of 0.3 to 0.6 per cent, roughly matching the gain that ought to have resulted from faster growth in manufacturing productivity. When a further allowance is made for higher unemployment, it becomes clear why the manufacturing miracle has failed to boost Britain's overall growth rate.

What follows from this? The key point is that because Britain has failed to retain enough middle-aged men in full-time employment it has been unable to translate huge manufacturing productivity gains into a general strengthening of its economic performance. Too many men have stopped full-time work just as they ought, in the second half of their careers, to have been most productive. To some extent they have been replaced by lower paid and less productive women.

A cheerful interpretation is that people are taking out the benefits of increased productivity in earlier retirement and shorter working weeks. The gloomy interpretation is that the productivity gains in manufacturing have been achieved only by heavy redundancies of skilled and able men.

But one conclusion is definite. The Conservatives' policies of privatisation, deregulation and trade union reform, and of reducing government intervention in industry, have boosted the efficiency and international competitiveness of British manufacturing. The weakness in the Government's policies has not been here, but in the failure to keep a vital and highly productive group of people (ie. men in late middle age) fully employed. This failure is probably due, at least in some part, to perverse work incentives created by some of Britain's social security and tax arrangements.

● The author is managing director of Lombard Street Research.

Why Tony Blair is looking East

Denis MacShane on the lessons the Asian tigers hold for Labour's leader

The news that Tony Blair is heading for the Far East on a major fact-finding trip over the new year holiday is a long-overdue recognition on the left of British politics that Asia now occupies the commanding heights of the world economy.

For years, Labour representatives have alternatively patronised or been terrified of Asia. At the TUC in 1990, left-wingers denounced what they called "alien" practices of the Japanese car firms which had arrived in the nick of time to save the British car industry from the twin stupidities of uncontrolled shop-stewardism in the workplace in the 1970s and the deindustrialisation policies of the early 1980s.

Although the Japanese, Korean and now Taiwanese companies setting up business in Britain have been more ready than many British firms to deal with trade unions, the metaphor of "cootie" wages, with all its racist undertones, is still to be heard. In fact, anyone who has travelled and worked in Asia, as I did in the 1980s and 1990s, the astonishing rise to wealth of many of the East and South-East Asian peoples and economies has been nothing short of a miracle.

Hong Kong and Singapore now have a higher output per person than Britain. In Korea and Taiwan, there are blue-collar and professional workers who earn more than their equivalents here.

Conservative commentators have painted Asia as the way forward for Britain, usually in contrast to Europe. Michael Portillo, the anti-European in the Cabinet, is heading for Japan in Blair's footsteps to learn his own lessons from the Asian model.

In the battle for the soul of post-election Conservatism, the "Asianists" believe the economic example of the Far East is to be preferred to that of Europe, and that Britain should reshape itself as a giant, dynamic Hong Kong, offshore from the underperforming continents. In fact, the most profitable economic relations between Europe and Asia are not controlled by British enterprises but by old-fashioned German, French, Dutch and Swiss firms and banks which

have been quietly trading in Asia for decades. The streets of Jakarta hum with the sound of air-conditioned Volvos and Mercedes with, alas, hardly a Jag or Rover in sight.

In his recent Conservative Central Office lecture, Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, appealed for Britain to bring central government expenditure down to around 30 per cent of national earnings — the secret, he argued, of the success of the dynamic "tiger" economies in Asia.

Yet Patten's statistics are shaky. According to the World Bank's 1995 World Development Report, government expenditure in Singapore was 19.7 per cent of gross national product, while in Korea it was 17.1 per cent. Yet in Pakistan and the Philippines, the share of total wealth taken by Government was even smaller, about half the expenditure in percentage terms of the Hong Kong Government itself. If reduced government expenditure were the simple panacea for national wealth, Pakistan should be rich and Hong Kong poor.

Instead, Blair will have to dig deeper into the reasons for Asian success. There is no simple, all-embracing Asian model that can be transposed to Britain. But from a centre-left perspective there are many aspects of Asian economies from which Britain can and should learn.

It may be too much to dream of the Government owning all the land, as it does in Hong Kong, and leasing it out to provide a steady flow of income, but the massive public housing programme in the New Territories is in line with Labour's thinking about allowing local councils to spend the receipts from selling council houses to build new homes.

If the Shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, proposed a compulsory 25 per cent deduction from all incomes, plus a 15 per cent levy on employer payrolls, paid by the employer to finance a fund supervised by central government to cover medical care, pensions and housing, he would be denounced as a leftist zealot. Yet the Central Provident Fund in Singapore is based on a massive employer-employee deduction which



provides the Government with a huge mass of low-interest money for investment.

In Taiwan, steelworkers and journalists earn more than they do in Britain. Yet the ratio between top and bottom earnings in Taiwanese companies is rarely of the order eight to one. Compare this with Britain, where the head of NatWest earns one hundred times the starting salary of a NatWest cashier in Rotherham. The national minimum wage in Taiwan is set at 70 per cent of median earnings, helping to prevent the widening income gap that leaves so many people in Britain fully employed yet desperately poor and dependent on state handouts.

Countries such as Korea and Malaysia, which two decades ago imported automobiles, have not been frightened to begin their car industries from scratch, and now Daewoo and Proton cars sell very well in Britain. Japanese firms recognise trade unions and negotiate freely with them.

To critics in Britain, the Japanese leaders are, so to speak, yellow outfits under the employer's thumb. And yet for

30 years the Japanese worker received a regular real increase in wages sufficient to set a high level of domestic demand. All over Asia, workers can now buy what they produce, as an egalitarian income system has supported domestic consumption.

Key common themes have been massive investment in education and constant upgrading of manufacturing investment. Japan, Korea and Taiwan are now exporting their out-of-date assembly plants to Britain, while they move upstream to new technologies and new products. Taiwan has 9,000 students in higher education in Britain, while the chances of finding a British business leader who can speak adequate Chinese or Korean are practically nil.

There is a dark side to Asia's development which cannot be ignored. Traditions of authoritarianism, denial of human rights and degradation of women have contributed to the economic take-off. But a new questing democracy can be seen everywhere. The Taipei press is much more critical

of the ruling Government than would be tolerated in most European countries, including Britain. In Korea and Japan, politically corrupt leaders are exposed and their careers are destroyed. Only the shadow of totalitarian China looms over the steady establishment of democratic traditions in the region.

Government direction of the economy through supply-side measures such as education and credit control has played a key role in Asia's development, but these have not been on the British political agenda for 20 years. Government direction, however, is not the same as feather-bedding. Industries unable to modernise have been left to wither.

So for Labour there is much to learn from Asia that is in tune with the traditional values of the democratic Left. For much of the 20th century, Labour has been seen as an agent for a fairer distribution of national wealth. If Labour is to prosper in the 21st century, it must become the shaper of a new programme for the British economy. And if Britain wants to develop fully, its political leaders must look East. ● The author is Labour MP for Rotherham.

Chip buddy

CHANCELLORS of the Exchequer tend to be a well-covered bunch who love their grub, and the present incumbent is no exception, according to staff. He loves a good plate of chips and is yearning to get back to his office in the new year to settle in for a wholesome nosh-up at the Treasury canteen.



Big eater: Kenneth Clarke

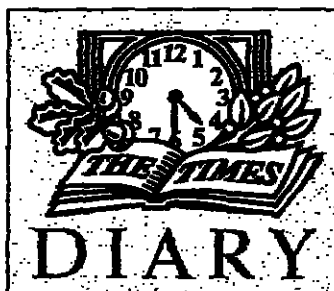
The pie-and-a-pint Chancellor has astonished civil servants with his regularity at the canteen counter. Not one of his predecessors has shown such hungry enthusiasm for its stodge.

"It's not something I have done regularly over the years in other departments but it's a habit I have got into in the Treasury," he explained this week, sounding distinctly dyspeptic from a surfeit of turkey.

"The canteen is just above my office and the food is all right. They try. I usually have something with chips, and they do a very good line in crumble — the banana is especially good." Then he added, after being cut short, "Oh dear. My wife is looking disapproving."

The cheery Chancellor's appearances are a fillip to staff, say canteen regulars, who complained recently when the potato portions were sliced from, four spuds to three. "When he comes in, he tucks in," says one of his team. "The place is full of senior managers and they all try to sit next to him."

● Our boys in Bosnia won't be short of a gasper this New Year.



Hanson plc, which owns Imperial Tobacco, has sent a cargo of half a million Regal cigarettes to warm their celebrations.

Our Fatherless

WOMEN priests have made their mark on the new edition of *Crockford's Clerical Dictionary*. In the 1995/96 edition, the section "How to Address the Clergy" has given the heave-ho to the affectionate term Father.

When starting a letter, or addressing a priest in speech, the latest edition advises the form: "Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Smith (unless it is known that some other style is preferred)."

term Father has been common parlance ever since the Revd Charles Lowndes took the sacraments into East End slums in the 1860s, and his parishioners called him Father. Traditionalists are appalled by Crockford's alterations, and the Church Commissioners have been quick to man the barricades. "The policy hasn't changed," says a spokesman. "Father can still be used."

Duck and dive

A NEW YEAR honour for servility to his boss should go to an employee of the Queen's first cousin, the Earl Granville.

Granville's salmon-farm manager on the frozen Hebridean island of North Uist, Dick Troughton, was out shooting duck the other day for the lord's New Year's Eve supper table. He spotted a brace, raised his gun and let loose both barrels to hit his prey, which went tumbling into a sea loch.

"The hide was taking them out to sea and the dog is pretty hopeless, so I had to go in after them," says a cheerful Troughton, who dived in fully-clothed to retrieve his quarry. "After going to that trouble I wasn't going to let them go. I didn't have to swim too far and the adrenalin was pumping, but it was absolute brass

monkeys. I hope the duck are worth it."

Pedal power

DISASTER has befallen a retired Church of England canon and former vice-chancellor of Oxford University. Dr John Kelly, 86, was carefully edging his new Ford Fiesta out of a parking space when he hit the accelerator and shot through a shop window.

"I was reversing," he explained



"I don't want the wallet, pal. It's your jumper I'm after."

as he recovered, shaken, at his Oxford home. "My foot slipped from the brake on to the accelerator and instead of moving back slowly, I darted back out of control."

The religious and historical writer, author of the *Oxford Dictionary of Pops*, swiped a lady cyclist during the manoeuvre and was contrite yesterday. But he has no plans yet to fold away his driving gloves.

● They should be cracking open the bottles in the Labour whip's office after the new year. The teetotal deputy chief whip, Don Dixon, is leaving during the recess, and his departure follows that of his equally abstemious former boss, Derek Foster, earlier in the year. "A slight change of culture is on the way," burped a festive insider.

Déjà vu

AUDIENCES have been flocking to see the revival of the musical *Company* by the young director Sam Mendes at the Donmar Warehouse in London.

The show stars Sophie Thompson, whose older and more famous sister Emma separated from Kenneth Branagh earlier this year. She puts up a convincing show as Amy, a girl who fails to marry her suitor, Paul, portrayed admirably



Clincher: Michael and Sophie

by Michael Simkins. Could the couple's impressive performance be inspired by their own entanglement some time ago?

Although Sophie married recently, Michael Simkins is a former fiancé, and theatre-goers have remarked on the verisimilitude of the romantic moments between them.

P.H.S.



GOLAN IN MARYLAND

Israel and Syria begin the search for peace

An innovative pattern of diplomacy seems to be emerging from Washington. Last month, bloodied Bosnia came to Ohio: the tireless Clinton Administration, alert to the conciliatory qualities of solitude, "gated" the warring parties of the former Yugoslavia at a disused air base in Dayton. Talk till you drop, the parties were told, and then some more: a peace treaty, however flawed, was conceived as a result. Four weeks later, interlocutors from Israel and Syria — foes no less implacable than those from Balkan battlegrounds — are sharing a plantation house in Maryland. Under the sage eye of Warren Christopher, a patron saint of peace in the Middle East, the two sides are better inclined to approach the matter of peace than they have ever been before.

Comparisons with Bosnia, however, must not be pursued too far. The Syrian-Israeli talks at the elegant Wye Plantation are being conducted at a lower level than were those at Dayton; and the two countries, while consistently hostile to each other for decades, have not waged active war since 1973. And the talks, whose foundation was prepared only days ago by the Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, are still mired in questions procedural.

Yet both Israel and Syria, for all their lack of formal communication, know each other supremely well. Just as Tel Aviv is aware of the varied demands of Damascus, so too are the Syrians now familiar with the pressures which exert themselves on Mr Peres. The murder of Yitzhak Rabin by a Jewish fundamentalist, in the starkness of its tragedy, has illustrated better to Hafez al-Assad the true nature of Israel's existential turmoil: it is said that he did not comprehend this before: he has no excuse for failing to see it now.

At Maryland, and later, the talks between the two countries will be a vehicle not so much for explanation and exegesis as for bargaining and concession. The fun-

damental change wrought this December — by Mr Peres as much as by Mr Assad — is that while neither side has indicated that it will rush into concession, both have made clear that the negotiations will not be blighted by taboos. Of course Syria wants the occupied Golan Heights back, and every inch of the territory in question; and of course Israel will not cede an inch of the territory it seized from Syria if Damascus will simply put troops back on the strategic land and refuse to enter into diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. But both sides appear to have abandoned the sterile "zero-sum game" which marked their earlier discourse. Israel will talk to Syria, as will Syria to Israel, without securing at the very outset the fullest range of concessions from the other.

Wearily, like boxers in a long fight, both Governments have realised that the costs of enmity are too high. Syria is impoverished: a quasi-pariah with the West, possessed of scant resources, it needs the material bounty that a comprehensive peace with Israel will surely bring. Israel, too, needs swiftly to end the nagging war on its northern front with Lebanon, which only the puppet-master in Damascus can bring to an end. With the increasingly swift implementation of accords with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Mr Peres has now the momentum and the confidence to focus squarely on the Syrian track of the comprehensive peace for which he so yearns.

The Israeli Prime Minister is aware, however, that peace with Syria will be the most difficult of all. Not only does he have a wily opponent in Mr Assad — who, untested, has not the test of public opinion to face — he has opponents too within Israel for whom any withdrawal from the Golan would be akin to treason. Israel still needs American support. Only Washington can ensure that the momentum for peace survives beyond the seclusion in Maryland.

ROYAL LIONESSE

The year that is about to end will be remembered as the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. It will also be remembered as the year of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. No figure in national life so vividly personified the emotions stirred by the celebrations of the end of that world earthquake and the beginnings of our brave new world. To those who lived through this great struggle, and those not yet born, the Queen Mother was the symbol of national memory and collective pride in 1995.

This will have come as no surprise to astrologers, who knew that this year was bound to be an extraordinary one for Leos like the Queen Mother. Leo, the sign of those with birthdays from July 21 to August 21, is at the centre of the zodiac, much as the Sun is at the centre of the solar system. It is the natural star sign of monarchy, of those destined by nature or genealogy to rule. Leos tend, they say, to be warm, radiant and loved by all who meet them. Their charisma is not the same as egoism; it is the justified confidence of those who know that they have much to give. Leos realise that their friends will admire and trust them.

The nation was supremely fortunate to have such a person as the focus of its VE-Day and V-J-Day celebrations. Anniversaries always raise questions, and this one prompted a fair few. Was Churchill right to fight on for as long as he did? Did the postwar settlement betray the British Empire to the emerging American superpower?

Was it right or even strategically useful to bomb Dresden? Have the Japanese done enough to atone for the horrors they visited upon Allied prisoners of war? There are no easy answers to such questions. The findings of revisionist historians have made them all the more complex.

Yet when the Queen Mother appeared before the crowds gathered outside Buckingham Palace on VE-Day, the British public was in no doubt that it was commemorating a just war. The nuances of the conflict will continue to be debated; but — for ordinary Britons — its essential morality remains an article of faith. The steadfast figure of the Queen Mother during this year's festivities reminded the nation of why the battle had been fought and of the 50 years of peace that have followed the defeat of the Nazi foe.

The last year has been another difficult one for the Royal Family. In spite of this, the concern generated by the Queen Mother's hip operation — and the considerable joy generated by its success — showed how fundamental the relationship between the monarchy and the British public remains. Her belief in duty, family life and public service survives and prospers among her daughter's subjects. As old as the century, the Queen Mother is still a potent force at the heart of the nation. Astrologers predict a happy and peaceful year for those born under her star sign. We respectfully hope that this prediction comes true for the nation's favourite Leo in 1996.

BUYING THE SHOP

Impulse buying in the sales can clean out the store

There is a wonderfully satisfying ring to that decisive little phrase: "I'll take the lot." On the one side, it implies an impulsive munificence, a braggadocio, a carelessness with the trifles of cost that arouses the Gatsby instinct in us all; to the bemused salesman to whom such words are uttered, the phrase suggests an unexpected windfall, a bounteous reward for patience taken to display the full variety of wares, a smug satisfaction that yet another client has been persuaded to buy more than strictly necessary. But rarely has the phrase been used to such startling effect as when it was reportedly said to Martin Barnett, the owner of a furnishing shop near Marble Arch. At first he claimed that the sheikh who jumped the queue for the Boxing Day sales had misunderstood the "sale" notices; but when he found that the visitor did indeed want the entire contents of the shop — sofas, chairs, lamps and furnishings — he says he could only wonder at his good fortune.

The sheikh, rumoured to be a member of Qatar's ruling al-Thani family, was apparently acting on a charming caprice: he wanted to recreate Mr Barnett's shop in Dubai so that his third wife, captivated by the excitement of shopping in London, could indulge her passion in a shopping mall nearer home. The instinct is an old one: many a rich collector has stumbled across a masterpiece and insisted on taking it home. Some, indeed, have uprooted ruins and had them transported across oceans. William Randolph Hearst was the most notorious: his eye would fall on a redwood, a Doric column or Renaissance castle, thence to be wrenched by an unlined hand and re-

erected on the Californian coast. Corporate raiders are gripped by the same acquisitive frenzy: their prey is companies — soft, lazy companies that can be hunted down, either to be stripped and gulped or mounted as trophies on the company letterhead. Christmas brings a lull in the chase, but Granada is still hard on the heels of Rocco Forte. The most celebrated insouciance is that of Victor Kiam, the tycoon who liked to boast that because he liked Remington electric razors so much he bought the whole company. Others, however, have taken on ships, shops, restaurants and newspapers in a fit of pique and then found they have to learn the hard facts of gastronomy, subediting or gemology if their bistros, broadsheets or jewellers are not to fall flat on their balance sheets.

Some purchases on impulse turn out to be less than the buyer presumed. However much it is denied, and whatever historical documents are displayed in Arizona, there is still a widespread suspicion that the Americans who, with dazzled eyes, jumped at the offer of buying a redundant London Bridge believed at the time they were getting the big one next door with bits that went up and down. The Qatari sheikh may find that his wife tires of her selection of 150 sofas, 300 polo shirts, a spinning wheel, two embroidery machines and 300 hats. He may feel compelled to stock Mr Barnett's replica shop with new goods for the delight of the Dubai shoppers. It would be a novel form of commercial expansion; but many an enterprise, founded on whim, has gone on to glory. One day Barnett's of the Gulf may indeed be a household name.

Intervention in Afghans' civil war

From Mr Randhir Singh Bains

Sir, Your leading article, "Kabul crucible" (December 20), rightly draws the attention of the international community to the urgency of ending civil war in Afghanistan. However, peace in Afghanistan is not possible until Pakistani interference in the internal affairs of that unfortunate country is stopped.

Since the middle of 1992, relations between Islamabad and Kabul have sunk to a new low. This is hardly surprising, for Pakistan can only tolerate a "friendly" regime in Kabul. Any assertiveness on the part of an Afghan government poses a serious threat to Pakistan's grand vision of establishing an Islamic bloc, extending from the Indian Kashmir to the erstwhile Soviet Muslim republics.

That is why, in addition to supporting armed insurgents in Kashmir and Tajikistan, Pakistan has created the Taleban militia, equipped with tanks and fighter planes, to topple the current Afghan Government.

Pakistan's strategy violates the UN Charter on sovereignty and territorial integrity of nation states. Unless the West manages to persuade Islamabad to limit its expansionist to diplomatic means, no peace effort in Afghanistan is likely to succeed.

Yours faithfully,
RANDHIR SINGH BAINS,
34 Shere Road, Ganis Hill, Essex.

From Ms Elizabeth Winter
and Mr Peter Marsden

Sir, We were pleased to see your recent coverage of the situation in Kabul and are glad of your support for the emergency appeals being launched for Afghanistan.

The staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross have, as you report, been doing a magnificent job in Kabul. There are staff of other agencies, however, who have also been present during the most dangerous times: they include the UN Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and several NGOs, together with Afghan deminers working for the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Halo Trust.

British NGOs, such as Afghanistan and the Obedient Venture, have supported this work. CARE Britain has been working to ensure a supply of clean water, adequate sanitation and shelter for the displaced in Kabul, and the ODA recently granted £5 million to multilateral agencies and NGOs.

Afghans are themselves playing a significant role in the reconstruction of their country, despite the suffering that they have had to endure, and Islam, like Christianity elsewhere, is active in providing cohesion and meaning to a society which remains in shock from 16 years of war.

Yours etc,
ELIZABETH WINTER,
PETER MARSDEN,
British Agencies Afghanistan Group,
c/o The Refugee Council,
3-9 Bondway, SW8.

Russian election

From Canon Michael Bourdeaux

Sir, Your editorial on the Russian election (December 18) was written well before there was enough evidence to support your claim that it was "fair, free and a mature expression of popular will". Indeed, you had already reported some incidents which suggest the opposite.

On December 11 you reported the death in a car crash of Vitali Savitsky, aged 40, one of the eight sitting members of the Duma for St Petersburg and leader of the Christian Democratic Union. Your obituary (October 21) takes account of subsequent evidence that has made his death look more and more like murder. He had championed the cause of the removal of deputies' immunity from prosecution for criminal offences and therefore had powerful enemies.

You reported (November 27, December 11) that two other candidates had been murdered earlier. Nothing is valid about the elections in their constituencies. The election in Chechnya was clearly accompanied by widespread intimidation and should never have been held.

Nothing is mature about a system which confronts millions of people, especially the old, with massive double lists of candidates which they cannot comprehend.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL BOURDEAUX
(Director),
Keston Institute,
4 Park Town, Oxford.
December 21.

Brixton's troubles

From Mr Peter Watson

Sir, John Adewole proposes (letter, December 22) that in order to help the poor-performing Afro-Caribbean economy in London to reach the levels of the thriving Chinese and Asian micro-economies, one solution might be to empower these Afro-Caribbean peoples through political and economic initiatives.

Were the Chinese and Asian communities assisted in these ways? Frankly I cannot recall such initiatives.

Yours sincerely,
P. W. WATSON,
The Knoll, The Common,
Child Okeford, Dorset.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

In praise of a straight-talking BBC World Service

From Mr Derek Brooke-Wavell

Sir, Remarkable indeed how our nation rallies round something it can hardly see. We judge World Service by its English transmission, crackling forth in Budapest or Tenerife. Most of us value it; a few, like Dr John Dayton (letter, December 20), find it "boring", "greasy" and "politically correct rubbish".

But of course, we British are not the intended audience. To the great majority who listen in English it is a second language, and the finer points of English expression, English cultural sensitivities and the British political debate would be double-dutch.

Hence World Service's much-lauded world perspective, shorn of British parochialism. Of course, expatriates may find this perspective a little arid. More importantly, foreign listeners may find it arid too. This is why the BBC is now moving to target the pre-occupation of each major region of the world.

So much for the tip of the iceberg — World Service in English. But let us not forget that the real millions of BBC listeners in the world are hearing its other 40-odd languages. These foreign-language services have no need to be all things to all men, or to stick to simple words and concepts: each is tuned precisely to the needs and sensitivities of its own particular audience. The communication they make is real and deep; and they are trusted, through having no taint of local politics or commerce.

Many millions throughout the world are BBC fanatics. The term is not too strong. The BBC's problem is that most speak little English. When we go abroad they may be all around us, but we never meet them.

The creation of such a vast, mute constituency, is the real triumph of BBC World Service. Mute only in our terms, of course. They may not speak English but they are voters and consumers in their own countries: a high proportion occupy positions of respect.

Before our Government slices too much off the goose that lays such golden eggs, should it not worry about how well we can survive without them?

Yours sincerely,
DEREK BROOKE-WAVELL
(Head of BBC Burmese Service, 1984-1995),
40 Kidmore Road,
Caversham Heights,
Reading, Berkshire.
December 24.

From Mr R. A. Fleming

Sir, Vast numbers of people in the world still rely on radio for trustworthy news and will continue to do so for many years to come, however fast the pace of growth in satellite TV.

My experience in many parts of the world suggests that among so-called opinion-formers and policymakers the World Service has an exceptionally high reputation which, in turn, re-

flects favourably on general attitudes to Britain.

The World Service programmes that Dr Dayton singles out for his scorn happen to be among my favourites; until now it had never occurred to me that listening to *Play of the Week* or to Edward Greenfield talking about classical music was a "politically correct" activity, but now that I know this to be so, I shall enjoy them all the more.

Yours faithfully,
RAY FLEMING,
Camino del Castillo,
Alaro, Majorca, Spain.

From Mr Charles Mackay

Sir, I have lived in Italy for over 20 years, and am totally dependent on the World Service for information. If there is any area where Britain "punches above its weight" it is here, where the BBC has painstakingly acquired an unrivalled reputation for impartiality and professionalism. Cuts are unthinkable: increased investment essential in the national interest. My Italian friends rely on the BBC rather than on their politicised radio and television networks.

Heaven forbid that we be nourished with the thin gruel and repetitive pap of, for instance, CNN, as prescribed by Dr Dayton.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MACKAY,
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1.
December 20.

Israel's withdrawal from Bethlehem

From Mr John Spencer

Sir, The director of the Britain Israel Public Affairs Centre, Helen Davis, seems to find it remarkable (letter, December 27) that the Israeli Army is no longer occupying the centre of Bethlehem 3,000 years after the events referred to in the Book of Ruth. She knows of no other example of a nation that enjoys absolute military authority withdrawing voluntarily from its "own" holy places.

Certainly no other nation has gone back so far in time to justify occupying its neighbours' territory. What is welcome is Israel's tacit acknowledgement that however absolute its military superiority the passage of three millennia limits its claim to land where Palestinians lived undisturbed for many generations.

Yours sincerely,
J. R. SPENCER,
38 Earlsfield Road, SW18,
December 28.

From Ms Emma Shackle

Sir, As a psychologist of religion who was evacuated as a child from Jerusalem in 1947, I would like to take issue with Mrs Davis's irresponsible use of scripture for political purposes.

At a time when some followers of the three religions of Abraham are

turning to fundamentalism, which often results in fanaticism, responsible religious authorities should be studying and acknowledging the way in which native Middle Eastern spiritual and religious traditions have been distorted and misused for political propaganda over many centuries, and continue to be so.

Yours sincerely,
EMMA SHACKLE,
19 Durham Road, East Finchley, N2.
December 27.

From the President of
Likud-Herut GB

Sir, Mrs Helen Davis is perfectly correct in saying that there is no other "example in history of a nation that enjoys absolute military superiority withdrawing voluntarily from its own holy places in the name of peace and reconciliation". There is also no other people in the world ready to voluntarily cede part of their homeland, leaving themselves defenceless. No other nation but the Jewish nation is ready to commit suicide.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC GRAUS,
President,
Likud-Herut GB,
143-5 Brondesbury Park, NW2.
December 27.

Coffinless burial

From Dr Milo Keynes, FRCS

Sir, The advocacy of the Duke of Westminster for coffinless burial in 1899 had been preceded, as pointed out by Dr Peter Jupp (letter, December 20), by that of two eminent surgeons with the formation of the Cremation Society in 1874. It is of interest how the attempt to deal with overcrowding in cemeteries had been tackled earlier in Vienna, in 1784, by Emperor Joseph II, with the added objective of economising in the expensive use of wood.

Joseph II decreed that burial within the city limits should cease and that after a funeral service the coffins should be moved, after 6pm in winter and 9pm in summer, to the new cemeteries in the outskirts. Here, next morning, the bodies were buried, without a religious service and in the order of their arrival at the cemetery, in unmarked communal graves, though a few might be buried in single marked graves alongside the cemetery wall.

At first, each body was removed from the coffin, which could then be reused, and placed in the grave unclothed in a linen sack, which was sprinkled with unslaked lime to promote decomposition. The communal graves were unmarked to save space and so that they could be refilled every seven to ten years.

In 1785, individual coffins were no longer forbidden, though for sack-burials a coffin was provided free of charge for the funeral in the church and to transport the body to the cemetery, where it was emptied and sent back in the hearse to be reused.

Mozart was buried in such a communal grave in December 1791, a grave that has so often wrongly been called a pauper's grave.

Yours faithfully,
MILO KEYNES,
3 Brunswick Walk, Cambridge.
December 21.

Lottery profits

From Mr Paul Savage

Sir, The National Lottery (letters, December 21, 26), which was set up by Camelot, must be one of the most spectacular and successful marketing events of the century. Speed and precision ensured that the lottery was reaching the majority of people within a very short time, and it now appears to run like clockwork as it continues to achieve its set objectives.

There can be no greater example to confirm that Peter Davis's decision to award Camelot the contract was absolutely correct.

This fact should be remembered when we see Richard Branson's resentment that he did not get the contract (Business Analysis, December 19). For him to think that a strategy to make the event non-profitmaking would seal it in his favour was a bad misjudgment.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL SAVAGE,
Rutherford Young, School House,
Oakley Park, Frilford Heath, Oxford.

Sports letters, page 32

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Leaving Saigon

From Mr Stephen Harper

Sir, Your obituary of John Bushell today says wrongly that he left Saigon in "the last helicopter to leave as the Thieu-Ky regime in South Vietnam finally collapsed". In fact he left with other British Embassy diplomats in an RAF Hercules six days before the final American helicopter evacuation to the Seventh Fleet.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN HARPER,
Green Dene Lodge,
Green Dene, East Horsley, Surrey.
December 20.

Pillars of wisdom

From Mr Brian Woodward

Sir, With the welcome appointment of "wise persons" to the Chancellor's panel of economists (report and photograph, Business, December 20), can cumbersome political correctness not be avoided by appropriately elegant and certainly sibilant reference to the six sages?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN WOODWARD,
21 Kerfield,
Winchester, Hampshire.
December 20.

Tall order

From Mr Richard B. Anderson

Sir, In your interview with the tallest man in Britain (Body and Mind, December 26) you report that seating dimensions in coaches and buses were last set in the 1930s and that people on average are now two or three inches taller than they were then. When were the dimensions for seating on aircraft last fixed?

Having recently flown to and from Malaysia on 13-hour non-stop flights, economy class, I feel it is time aircraft operators revised the spacing of their seats.

I am not unduly tall at 6ft, but if an aircraft is full, as was our return flight, passengers like me can be made highly uncomfortable.

Do airline companies conduct market research to see if passengers would be prepared to pay a modest increase in fares to ensure they do not leave the aircraft feeling as if they have been travelling in a cattle truck?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD B. ANDERSON,
37 Hermitage Gardens,
Edinburgh.
December 26.

Paintings restored

From Mr Michael Webber

Sir, Recent correspondence on changes (usually perceived as adverse) to works of art caused by the activities of restorers (letters, December 6, 18, 26) leads me to ask whether or not a "listing system", similar to that used for gardens and buildings, cannot be introduced.

Of course there would be problems as to who could be appointed to do the listing and the criteria they should adopt, but it may be worth a try and there are a number of professional and other bodies who could advise.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL WEBBER,
The Garden Flat,
19 Netherhall Gardens, NW3.
December 27.

Down in the dumps?

From the Reverend P. M. Hickley

Sir, There is nobody in the Sandringham dustbin (cartoon, December 22, letter, December 23).

Practical tests will show that it is impossible to get in, cover oneself with the mistletoe, and replace the lid, without leaving evidence in the surrounding snow.

The person concerned clearly resorted to the classic method of reversing the boots and returning to the house in the existing footprints.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HICKLEY,
372 Heath Road South,
Northfield, Birmingham.
December 23.

It's in the post

From Mrs Janet Wise

Sir, On December 16 I received an acknowledgment for my order for charity Christmas cards, dated two days earlier. I quote:

A24516 Father Christmas Cards ... This product has been so popular that we have recently run out of stock. Fresh supplies are on the way to our warehouse and we plan to despatch your order during the week ending Friday 12/01/96. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this delay may cause.

Inconvenience? What inconvenience?

Yours faithfully,
JANET WISE,
Walnut Tree Farm,
Market Weston, Diss, Norfolk.
December 24.

OBITUARIES

SHURA CHERKASSKY

Shura Cherkassky, concert pianist, died in London on December 27 aged 84. He was born in Odessa, Ukraine, on October 7, 1911.

SHURA CHERKASSKY was one of the most brilliant, idiosyncratic pianists of his generation, perhaps the last in a long line which included such individualists as Josef Hofmann, Ignacy Paderewski and Vladimir Horowitz. Although Cherkassky was never quite as famous as these men, he deserves to be of their company.

Cherkassky was a tiny, unassuming figure. He seemed almost lost on a large stage, the very opposite of what one expects a virtuoso player to look like. But once he had his hands on the keyboard and his feet on the pedals, his real stature was at once apparent.

His choice of repertoire was eclectic and wide-ranging, stretching from Bach to Berg and taking in on the way all the composers of the Austro-German tradition, French Impressionists and the Russians, although he was at his best when playing the Romantics. Single composer programmes bored him — he was easily bored — and conductors regarded him with some trepidation, as he had the habit of playing a piece quite differently in performance from the way in which he had rehearsed it.

But for all this, he was an electrifying pianist with a dazzling technique, and he riveted audiences across the world for seven decades. It was perhaps in Chopin that his contrasting gifts of poetry and virtuosity were best employed. On his 80th birthday concert at the Festival Hall, in a long and demanding programme, the one moment of real magic was Chopin's F minor Nocturne, when the simple dedication of his playing had his audience hanging on every note.

An only child, Cherkassky was the son of two musicians, his father an amateur violinist, his mother Lydia a talented pianist who was eventually forced to stop playing because of terrible cramps in her hands. Perhaps because of this, Cherkassky was always fanatical about massage and



swimming, and throughout his life he followed a strict diet.

His parents taught him to read music when he was only four, and he recalled as a child being able to copy the pitch of the whine on a trolleybus when he got home to the piano. He often visited the opera house at Odessa. A more unpleasant experience in his home city came when he was ten: in 1922, when violence

erupted between the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks in the streets.

Cherkassky was standing on the balcony of his parents' home. He narrowly missed being hit by a bullet, which whizzed past him and hit the wall behind him. This unsettling atmosphere caused the family to move to Baltimore in 1923. He was unhappy at school in America, as he had difficulties with

the language. His parents decided that he should concentrate on the piano instead. Cherkassky gave his first recital in Baltimore in 1923 and the following year played to Rachmaninov in New York. Rachmaninov was impressed and agreed to teach him if Cherkassky agreed not to give concerts until he was older. Not convinced that this was the best advice for her son, Lydia took him to Josef Hofmann, who had himself been a child prodigy, and who advised Cherkassky to keep giving concerts: "If you have it in your blood, don't stop". Cherkassky studied with Hofmann at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute, and Hofmann became the boy's idol. From him, Cherkassky was imbued with the grand 19th-century tradition of Romantic piano playing.

After five years he was ready to begin his career, and he started with tours of Australia and Europe. In 1929 he made his British debut at the Queen's Hall in London. He returned to the Soviet Union as part of a tour that also took him to Japan. During the war years he had few engagements, and he and his widowed mother had a hard time financially which was relieved only when, in 1946, he was invited to Hollywood. There he had been asked to play Beethoven's *Appassionata* Sonata, for the soundtrack of the film *Deception* starring Bette Davis. Also in 1946 he married the actress Genia Ganz, but after two tempestuous years the couple parted. Cherkassky remained a bachelor thereafter.

In 1947 he and his mother moved to Nice, and Cherkassky revived his European career. He scored a particular success in Germany and began to record for Deutsche Grammophon (just after the war he had made his first discs, 78s, for HMV). In 1957 he returned to London and made an extraordinary impression at a Wigmore Hall recital. Ibbs and Tillet decided to manage his career, and in 1961, after his mother's death, he moved permanently to London, living in a tiny apartment in the White House Hotel, a vast building just off Marylebone Road, for the remainder of his life.

His reputation now grew by leaps

and bounds, and he was on a constant round of tours. His biggest followings were in Germany and The Netherlands, but he had strong support among the demanding audiences of London and New York. Playing and practising were his passion, his method of performing the latter being highly unusual. He would practise for precisely four hours a day — no more — and, when he was rehearsing a phrase, he would not allow any one finger visibly to overlap a neighbouring note. If it did, he would start again from the beginning.

Cherkassky used to joke that this made him sound like a piano tuner, but there was no doubt that on stage the technique got results. He remained a very accurate pianist with a rock-solid technique, even in old age. He spoke reluctantly about his repertoire and his methods of playing, preferring to chat with interviewers about more mundane matters. He cared little for the luxuries of life, provided that he had a few personal comforts, and even his Steinway at the White House was rented. One of his few indulgences was travel: he loved hot, exotic places, and spent about a third of the year on holiday.

Cherkassky recorded little in the studio. He preferred the spontaneity of live performance, and to have these recitals committed to disc, as many were to arresting effect. But in the 1980s the small Welsh-based company Nimbus signed him to make some CDs at leisure in the big drawing room of his headquarters.

This was the ideal setting. The result was seven well-filled discs, comprising the core of his repertoire. These and the big Decca issue of BBC recitals left his followers with a handsome legacy of Cherkassky's art. Here were his Schubert, his Chopin, his famous accounts of Liszt's opera paraphrases, his Rachmaninov, his Prokofiev, and perhaps most gratifying of all, those small, corrupting encore pieces without which no Cherkassky recital was complete. With his departure, an era can be said to have ended: virtually nobody troubles with these trifles in a more serious age than Cherkassky's.

DAVID LAND



David Land, agent, producer and theatre owner, died on December 23 aged 77. He was born on May 22, 1918.

BEHIND the glamour and glitz of some of Britain's most famous and successful musical theatre lay the ebullient character of David Land. With an astute vision, quick to recognise latent talent, and a generous personality large enough to foster it, he was the impresario who discovered Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber. As their personal manager he coproduced such flourishingly profitable shows as *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Evita*. He played an important role in the revitalisation of postwar British theatre and greatly advanced its recognition on the world stage.

Working from a cramped office in Wardour Street, its walls a patchwork of framed awards and gold discs, Land commanded an international showbusiness empire. Yet he remained an unostentatious man, entertaining even Hollywood moguls to salt-beef sandwiches in a corner café and bemusing them with his dry and essentially English sense of humour. He had a mischievous idea of fun which showed itself in such touches as his naming of a company Hope and Glory, simply so that answering the phone he could do so with the words "Land of Hope and Glory".

Brought up in London, the son of Polish Jewish immigrants, David Land inherited a lively mind and entrepreneurial skill. At the end of the Second World War — during which he had joined the RASC as a volunteer — Land launched his career in the entertainment business. At first he worked with established names, producing concerts which featured such wartime stars and Forces sweethearts as Vera Lynn, Anne Shelton and the conductor Stanley Black, who was to remain his lifelong friend.

However, he soon turned to more innovative work. He became the first European representative of the Harlem Globetrotters and, seeing the potential of the bizarre if captivating combination of cabaret act and Girl Guide troupe, he became the administrator of the Dagenham Girl Pipers, bringing them international renown. In partnership with Joe Collins the father of Jackie and Joan, he also staged one of the Beatles' first London performances.

Land was already a prosperous man before his introduction to Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber launched him into higher stratospheres of showbusiness success. At the end of the 1960s he had formed a theatrical management company in partnership with the businessman Sefton Myers. It was the latter whom Lloyd Webber, as a 21-year-old university student, had approached in 1969 with the idea of setting up a

museum of pop music memorabilia. As token of his earnestness he had included, along with his proposal, the album *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* which he had just recorded with his partner Tim Rice. Myers was uninterested by the museum idea but, impressed by the enthusiasm of the young Lloyd Webber, he passed the album on, unlistened to, to Land.

Land's imagination was instantaneously caught by *Joseph* and especially, he later said, by the line "have you made a fortune buying shares in pyramids?" Recognising an exciting new talent, he signed the two young men to a three-year contract, giving them an office to work in and £30 a week each. His faith in them was to be rewarded. Able to concentrate upon their art full-time, Rice and Lloyd Webber had completed *Jesus Christ Superstar* within a year.

For the next decade Land was to be the vital force behind the careers of the two composers. *Superstar*, originally written as a theatrical show, was turned down by British impresarios who were scared off by what they saw as its unmodish subject matter. But Land, convinced of its artistic merits, persisted, and setting up a deal with a record company, released it as an album. He won the confidence and trust of Rice and Lloyd Webber and although, when *Superstar* rocketed into success in America, an international agent had to be brought in, both Rice and Lloyd Webber insisted that Land must be part of any future transactions; and he went into partnership with Robert Stigwood to represent them internationally. Up until his death Land remained Rice's agent, and in his last year was arranging regional tours of *Chess* and *Evita*.

From 1983 to 1991 Land was chairman of the Young Vic. Though personally a generous man, he was suspicious of the merits of Arts Council grants, believing that productions should be able to pay their own way. It was this business acumen, which was to make him such a successful owner of the Theatre Royal, Brighton, which he bought in 1984. Financially wrecked when he acquired it, it became, under his management, the most successful regional theatre in Britain, attracting the best performers and directors to its stage.

Land believed passionately in the performing arts. He founded the David Land Arts Centre and Studio Theatre which provided much-needed rehearsal and workshop facilities for both amateur and professional companies. During his lifetime he won a string of theatrical awards and in 1994 he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Sussex in recognition of his vital contribution to British theatre.

He is survived by his wife Zara, whom he married in 1945, and by a daughter and son. But the value of his influence was not at all wasted in amusing extravaganzas, which served only to obscure his merit and to confuse his authentic genius with the modish brightness of unworthy copyists. It became clear to those who studied his work and read his own writings that he was an artist enslaved to no single style who, while yet preserving a knowledge and understanding of classical models, could proceed from them upon paths of his own discovering. Among the work of his which was received with the greatest enthusiasm in London were his designs for *The Good Humoured Ladies*, *L'Après midi d'un Faune*, and, in 1921, *The Sleeping Princess*. The last of these was widely different from any other work of his, more formal, more delicate, more exquisite, and in a sense, less bold.

Bakst's work is likely to hold a lasting place in the history of scenic design, and he will long be remembered as one who combined in himself an extraordinary vigour and an almost magical power of creating an effect of ethereal beauty within the limits imposed by the theatre. He was an officer of the Legion of Honour and received other public honours throughout Europe. In 1903 he married Mile. Tréakoff, a daughter of a Mayor of Moscow.

ERNEST BOYER

Ernest LeRoy Boyer, educationist, died of lymphoma at Princeton, New Jersey, on December 8 aged 67. He was born in Dayton, Ohio, on September 13, 1928.

NO ONE appeared to work harder to advance the cause of teaching in the United States than Ernest Boyer. He held a series of key positions over three decades — among them president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and United States Commissioner of Education. And in these he conducted a one-man crusade to improve the standard of education in American schools and colleges. His views were respected; his tenacity admired. If the results, as measured by examinations and international comparisons, showed very little change at the end of the day, it was not for want of trying.

It was an impossible task for one man. Though he often worked 90 hours a week, Boyer was ultimately defeated in his attempt to clean the Augean stable of American education. In the face of school

systems crippled by social neglect, racial division and economic decay, especially in the inner cities, combined with the inbred conservatism of both parents and the teaching profession, the most eloquent words were not enough to inspire change.

The son of a bookstore manager, Boyer was educated at Greenville College, Illinois, and later gained his master's degree and doctorate from the University of Southern California. His specialties were speech pathology and audiology, and for the next few years he worked as a professor at Upland College, California.

Then, in 1960, his career took a crucial turn. He abandoned teaching and research to take up administration, accepting a post with the Western College Association. There he became involved in an attempt to improve the standards of public school teachers in California. Boyer had found what he wanted to do with the rest of his life.

Five years later, in a position created especially for him, he was appointed executive dean for the State University of New York — an

institution with 64 campuses, 350,000 students and 15,000 faculty members. By 1968 he was Vice-Chancellor of SUNY, and in 1970 took over the reins of the entire administration as Chancellor.

In his new position of power, Boyer moved to enhance the status of teaching at the university, as opposed to research, creating a new rank of distinguished teaching professor. He set up an experimental three-year Bachelor of Arts programme, founded five institutions where adults could study for degrees without attending classes, and established the first student-exchange programme with the Soviet Union. Presidents Nixon and Ford both enlisted his advice, and then, in 1977, he left SUNY to become President Carter's Commissioner of Education, administering programmes worth billions of dollars.

Boyer's acceptance of the White House offer had meant a pay cut of almost \$20,000 a year, but he had high hopes that Carter would fulfil his promise to make education a Cabinet-level position. Congress, however, was obdurate,

and Boyer also faced opposition from his boss, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Joseph Califano, who did not want his own agency diminished by a new department. Boyer occupied himself, instead, with sponsoring several innovations in the schools. As an enemy of bureaucratic jargon, he taught a course within the agency on how to write and speak more clearly. This was a reform which failed to survive his departure.

Boyer lasted in government service for 26 months, during which time he saw a sharp increase in federal aid for education. "The mood is better toward the schools," he said. "People care deeply. I sense a growing desire to make them work." But, frustrated by the congressional failure to establish an Education Department (which finally happened in 1980), he left in mid-1979 to become president of the Carnegie Foundation.



for lack of it) with higher education, he produced a report in 1983 recommending a core curriculum requiring mastery of both English and a foreign language for all students, plus mandatory community service, and a 25 per cent pay increase for teachers. Creative teaching, he said, was the nub of the problem: all other issues were secondary. The report was widely hailed, but little was done.

Undeterred, Boyer next turned his attention to America's undergraduate colleges, producing the most systematic study ever attempted. The American college, he concluded, was "a troubled institution... driven by careerism and more successful in credentialing than in providing a quality education". The report, published in book form in 1987, contained more than 80 major recommendations for reform, few of which have been widely adopted.

At the other end of the educational scale, Boyer spoke

out on behalf of impoverished children who were being bypassed by educational improvements, advocating better nutrition, prenatal care for teenage mothers, and more day care with summer classes and pre-school education. He lived to see many of these items targeted for cuts by the new Republican Congress.

A compelling orator, Boyer was in constant demand as a lecturer. He spoke on such subjects as the need for off-campus adult education, the decline of teaching civics and government in schools, which he called "civic illiteracy", and the dangers of overbearing academic management. He also wrote a series of books published by the Carnegie Foundation, and served as a consultant on education policy to several foreign governments, including the Chinese.

Ernest Boyer held more than 130 honorary degrees. He is survived by his wife Kathryn, three sons and one daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS

WATT — Mrs Alan Angus, 84, died of cancer on December 27. She was born in 1911.

WILLIAMS — Geoffrey at her home on December 27. She was born in 1911.

WILLIAMS — Peter, 21st December, died of cancer. He was born in 1911.

YOUNG — On December 27th, Douglas Edmund aged 78 years, died of cancer. He was born in 1911.

ZABERNIK — Max of Fribourg, died of cancer on December 27. He was born in 1911.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

ROOKE — December 29th 1946 in Chorley Parish Church, Wilfred Allen Rooker to Barbara Rooker. Love from Peter, Lesley and the family.

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